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VOP COMMENTS ON OPENING OF ISRAELI EMBASSY IN CAIRO

NC181729 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 1530 GMT 18 Feb 80 NC

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] There is no offense worse than treason! With these words, we describe what happened today in Cairo, where the Zionist flag was raised after Arab flags, including the Palestinian, had been lowered. There is no offense worse than treason, and we must expect anything from As-Sadat. However, on such a black day we must address ourselves, because the responsibility for confronting treason must not stop at recording stands, at expressing denunciation and condemnation or at expressing bitterness and pain. There must be real action to make treason a transient event in the history of our nation and to prove that the Arab-Zionist conflict is too deep to be distorted by a traitor like As-Sadat or to be deflected by a clownish act like the raising of the Zionist flag in Egypt or of As-Sadat's flag in occupied Palestine.

The responsibility for confronting treason cannot be carried out without continuing the struggle in all of its forms against the Zionist enemy and against the world imperialist forces led by the United States.

By his treason As-Sadat has enabled the Zionist flag to be flown in Cairo. We don't doubt for a moment that the Egyptian people, who are well-versed in struggle and belong to the Arab nation, will tear down this flag soon and raise in its place the flag of Palestine, which is the flag of the freemen in the Arab nation, foremost of whom are the noble freemen of Egypt.

'ARAFAT COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON

'Extremely Dangerous'

NC161640 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 16 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the revolution forces, met at noon today with the military and political cadres of the revolution. During the meeting brother Abu 'Ammar reviewed the present situation, including the movements of the enemy and his agents. He also stressed the serious results and implications of these movements, which are supported by the United States.

The brother commander in chief also reviewed the outcome of his visits to Iran, Saudi Arabia and Iraq and his recent meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He explained in detail the assessments of the leadership of the Palestinian revolution regarding the developments in the Lebanese, Palestinian, Arab and international arenas.

Finally, brother Commander Abu 'Ammar reviewed the serious conditions in southern Lebanon resulting from the escalation of the Zionist military threat and the Zionist military movements as well as the maneuvers which the enemy forces carried out in the past few weeks. He said that the situation is extremely dangerous and requires complete vigilance and alertness.

Warns Against Militia Action

JN160830 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Beirut--Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, has stated that the Palestinian forces will not fill the security vacuum that would result from the Syrian withdrawal from the western sector of Beirut. Nevertheless, he welcomed any substitute to fill this vacuum.

In a press statement, 'Arafat said that the PLO's relations with the Lebanese Government are governed by the Baghdad and Tunis summit resolutions. He warned that the Phalangist militias in Beirut might carry out military action to support a possible Zionist attack. He said that the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist forces have taken precautions to face such contingencies.

PLO 'Ready for War'

LD181035 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Feb 80 pp 12, 13 LD

[Interview granted by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Qaysi in Baghdad "following his recent long meeting" with the Iraqi president]

[Text] I said to Mr 'Arafat: Mr PLO Chairman, we would like to throw some light on your current visit to Iraq and the outcome of your meeting with his excellency President Saddam Husayn.

[Answer] In the difficult and grave situation through which our Arab nation and the Palestinian revolution are passing I usually come to Baghdad to consult and to discuss all matters of interest to the Arab nation and the Palestinian problem, which is the central problem of all the Arabs. My meeting with his excellency the president was very important. We discussed developments in the Arab area, particularly in the light of the new situation, and the Israeli preparations, as well as our preparations to confront aggression. We also discussed the latest development with regard to Camp David and the farce of the so-called normalization of relations, as well as the American plans in the area and the U.S. fleets cruising in the region--the 6th fleet, the 7th fleet and the recently-formed 5th fleet. The Afghanistan events and the Islamabad conference were also discussed. I can say that our nation is facing the gravest challenges in its history. But despite all the present challenges and what we now see happening, the nation is going through a stage of great work. I found his excellency President Saddam Husayn very understanding, positive and quite ready to give every necessary support. I would say that our beloved Iraq--government, leadership and people--is immersed in the problem of our Arab nation and stands in the forefront in dealing with them and defending our major cause, Palestine. Iraq stands with the Palestinian people in defending the Arab nation's destinies and with the Palestinian revolutionaries in their battle to liberate occupied Palestinian soil. I personally am very pleased with the results of my talks with his excellency President Saddam Husayn.

[Question] How do you see the pressures which are being brought to bear on the Palestinian revolution locally and internationally?

[Answer] As I have already said, we are now facing challenges on all levels. A few days ago Weizman said that the Israelis have completed their military preparations in northern Palestine. Our reconnaissance shows that they have brought forward some armored and mechanized brigades. [paragraph continues]

Some of these have entered the Lebanese border strip occupied by Israel and its agents, such as the client Sa'd Haddad, behind the so-called good fence, or rather the bad fence, which they erected. That fence was a Zionist attempt to demoralize the sons of the Arab nation. It is not good but bad.

The client As-Sadat is trying, for his part, to normalize his relations and the Egyptian Arab people's relations with the Zionists. I wonder how relations with an enemy can be normalized? Would any reasonable man normalize relations with murderers, villians and thieves?

We expect Zionist military activities to escalte within a short time. Following Weizman's announcement about the military buildup on the northern front, the isolationist artillery, on the orders of the minor Zionist lackey Sa'd Haddad, began shelling An-Nabatiyah, Arnun, Beaufort Castle and the suburbs of Tyre. All this goes to show the gravity of the military situation in the south. We must add to this As-Sadat's new challenge of normalizing relations with the enemy. Unfortunately, As-Sadat, who sold himself cheaply, is trying to sell the Egyptian Arab people. I am sure that the Egyptian people will not be sold and will prove that they are the same people who fought in defense of Arab dignity. The normalization of relations is something very grave, not only for the Palestinian people but also for the Egyptian people. We wonder how the Egyptian people will tolerate the normalization. Will the Egyptian people forget their martyrs and allow the Zionist falg to flutter on the Cairo skyline?

The other conspiracy--the autonomy conspiracy--has failed dismally. They are now trying to give it the "kiss of life" and to introduce certain cosmetic amendments to it. The so-called autonomy is a new slavery for the Palestinian people. If we approved autonomy, it would mean that we recognize their occupation and would be giving them legitimacy. It would be as if we were the intruders and they the indignenous people of this land. That is the kind of autonomy they are advocating. What is happening to our nation and in our area is a great challenge. This is what we would call the hard work. But I am optimistic that it is great work, because it is the labor that brings the dawn, the birth of a great nation.

[Question] The client Sa'd Haddad stated that 1980 will be the year of liberating Lebanon from the aliens. What is your answer to this?

[Answer] God willing, this will indeed be the year of liberating Lebanon from aliens like him and his agent Zionist masters.

[Question] Reports have leaked out about secret contacts between the PLO and As-Sadat. What do you say to this?

[Answer] As-Sadat wants to make his masters believe that he is strong and influential, so as to facilitate the passage of his suspect and humiliiating plans. As-Sadat is known to be the biggest liar in the world of politics and the biggest charlatan history has known. He is always spreading rumors whose aim is to undermine the fortitude of the strugglers and to disengage the revolution, just as he disengaged from the enemy at kilometer 101 and elsewhere. His followers at the United Nations have spread rumors that they were in contact with the PLO and that they agreed on a certain solution. In Havana, they also spread rumors to this effect. [paragraph continues]

We find them continuously fabricating lies and engaging in intrigues and machinations and maneuvering in order to gain time and find justifications for their criminal actions against the Palestinian Arab people. Putting it briefly, I would say: "The caravan is marching and the dogs are barking." As-Sadat wants to create a ballyhoo over his treacherous conspiracy. But the Arab masses throughout the Arab nation are reassured that the time-bomb has exploded in the face of As-Sadat, Begin and Carter. This bomb is the splendid steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories among whom, as Strauss admitted, they could not find a single agent. This was their answer to As-Sadat.

[Question] Reports affirm that Israel will launch a fifth blitzkrieg following the withdrawal of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] from Beirut.

[Answer] Such a possibility is being taken into account. The sabre-rattling in southern Lebanon is not normal. Our forces have been placed on maximum alert. We are expecting such a development. The question remains: Are the international conditions suitable for a preemptive strike? I discussed this and the possibilities of war with President Saddam Husayn. Last year we were the target of an 8-month war of attrition. The Zionist army tried to occupy southern Lebanon but failed. There is sabre-rattling, and war drums are beating. War is not a matter of arms but a political decision. War, as I said, is an international situation. The Zionist enemy is his master's voice. The enemy Defense Minister Weizman said that no military action can be taken without consultation with the United States. He says: We consult with the United States on any military action we carry out and after any operation we carry out.

It is impossible for Israel to launch any military operation without Washington knowing about it and without U.S. approval and blessing.

We are ready for war if they impose it. In our attitude we show respect for Lebanese sovereignty. All that we are asking for is that the Lebanese state respect all the official agreements that recognize the legitimate [Palestinian] presence and right to self-defense. Therefore, we reject any attempt by any single party to dictate its will after the ADF withdrawal. We are prepared for all eventualities, in agreement with our Lebanese brothers in the Nationalist and Popular Movement.

PFLP SPOKESMAN CRITICIZES MCHENRY'S MIDEAST TOUR

JN151836 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1758 GMT 15 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 February--Bassam Abu Sharif, official spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has criticized the current Middle East tour of Donald McHenry, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations.

In a statement published here this evening, Abu Sharif said: McHenry's tour comes within the context of U.S. activities to turn the area into an American zone of influence.

Abu Sharif called on all Arab national forces to stand firmly against U.S. military intervention and to support the Palestinian revolution's opposition to the autonomy conspiracy.

VOP: 'ARAFAT WARNS AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISM

NC190735 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 0645 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] The brother commander in chief, Abu 'Ammar, has warned against the continuing hostile plots by which U.S. imperialism and its agents in the area are attempting to eliminate the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He affirmed that the Palestinian revolution will continue to resist these plots.

At a meeting of the Joint Command of the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian revolution in the south [of Lebanon] yesterday, the commander in chief commended the steadfastness of the joint forces in southern Lebanon, describing it as the miracle which annihilated the Camp David plot and will annihilate all other plots.

INA: 'ARAFAT, QADDUMI INVITED TO VISIT JAPAN

JN181158 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 February--Dr Mani Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, today received two invitations addressed to Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, from the Japanese Diet chairman. The invitations were conveyed to Dr al-'Utaybah by the Japanese ambassador to the UAE.

It is to be recalled that Dr al-'Utaybah is the chairman of the UAE-supported Palestinian-Japanese dialog.

ABU MAYZAR MEETS WITH NETHERLANDS MINISTRY OFFICIAL

NC181601 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 1515 GMT 18 Feb 80 NC

[Text] In Damascus, PLO official spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar has received the director of the Netherlands Foreign Ministry's African and Middle East Department, who was accompanied by the Netherlands ambassador to Syria. During the meeting, which was held in a friendly and frank atmopshere, discussion centered on the current situation in the Arab area and ways of developing relations between the Netherlands and the PLO. Observers consider this meeting as an official recognition of the PLO by the Netherlands Government.

VOP: 'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM ROMANIAN PRESIDENT

NC180637 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 18 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Leader Abu 'Ammar met yesterday evening with the Romanian ambassador in Lebanon. The ambassador conveyed a message from the Romanian president replying to brother Abu 'Ammar's message to President Ceausescu. Arab and international developments were discussed during the meeting.

KUWAIT

KUNA: CARTER DEFENSE PACT PROPOSAL REJECTED

LD171246 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1207 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 17 February--Kuwait today renewed its rejection of the policy of pacts and said it will oppose it. Commenting on U.S. President Carter's call for the establishment of a joint defense pact of Muslim countries in reply to any Soviet interference, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said: "Our activities take place within the international and regional institutions through which, we believe, bilateral and world problems can be solved." President Carter yesterday called for the establishment of a joint defense pact of Muslim countries in reply to what he described as a Soviet threat to the security of any "fraternal country".

FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTS IDEA OF DEFENSIVE 'UMBRELLA'

LD181736 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah has declared that Soviet intervention in Afghanistan does not constitute a threat to the oil states. At the same time, he has rejected the presence of American forces in the Gulf region.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has stated that he does not agree with the plan of American President Carter connected with setting up a protective umbrella over the Gulf. He has added that there is no need for such an umbrella as long as the oil continues to flow normally.

The deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign ministers, in an interview with United Press Agency in which he dealt with a broad series of international issues, including Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, rejected intervention in Muslim countries. He added that concern over the region by the two major powers, whether the United States or the Soviet Union, is due to preserving their interests. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister has expressed his belief that the region needs no protection because it is capable of protecting itself.

OMAN

PORT, AIRPORT FACILITIES MAY BE GRANTED TO U.S.

NC171316 Paris AFP in English 1301 GMT 17 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Beirut, Feb 17, (AFP)--Oman probably will grant port and airport facilities near the strategic Hormuz Strait to the United States, but with certain conditions, Omani Foreign Minister Qais Zawawi has said.

In an interview to be published tomorrow in the Lebanese weekly MONDAY MORNING, Mr Zawawi said that these conditions include a time limit on the facilities, the assurance that the granting of facilities will help make the entire Gulf region secure, and reinforcement of Oman's defense capabilities. But Oman would never allow foreign bases on its soil, and Mr Zawawi denied reports that Egyptian troops were in the country.

He said that the principal threat to the Hormuz Straits came from Arab terrorist organizations, and his government had proposed a defense pact to several Gulf nations, including Iran.

But Mr Zawawi added that Oman was ready to discuss the opening of a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) office in Oman.

Mr Zawawi said that recent oil discoveries in Dhofar were enabling Oman to continue its present production of about 300,000 barrels a day. Oman was also considering imposition of a right-of-passage tax on tankers using the Straits of Hormuz, Mr Zawawi added.

QATAR

ATTENDANCE AT ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING CONFIRMED

NC151550 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1407 GMT 15 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Tunis, 15 February--The state of Qatar today announced its agreement to attend the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers proposed for 26 February.

Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah have recently asked the Arab League General Secretariat to convene an urgent meeting to discuss the ramifications of the events that took place in the Tunisian city of Qafsah.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING KHALID'S STATE OF HEALTH TERMED SATISFACTORY

LD190830 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Dr Hussyn al-Jaza'iri, the minister of health, has made the following statement:

His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on Monday afternoon, arrived in Riyadh and entered the King Faysal specialist hospital to have medical examinations following an illness his majesty suffered while out in the country. The doctors at the specialist hospital reported that initial tests were carried out on his majesty and all the results were, God be thanked, satisfactory. May God protect his majesty against any discomfort and may he grant him good health and blessings.

ATTENDANCE CONFIRMED FOR TUNIS CONFERENCE 26 FEB

LD161440 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Jidda--The kingdom has agreed to attend the extraordinary session of the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Tunis on 26 February. This has been stated by Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary for political affairs in the Foreign Ministry.

It should be recalled that Tunisia and Libya had requested the convening of the conference following the Qafsah incident. The date of the meeting, which had been set for today, was postponed at the request of a number of Arab countries.

SHAYKH YAMANI LEAVES RIYADH FOR LONDON

LD181108 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 18 February--Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, this afternoon left Riyadh for London to participate in the meetings of the OPEC strategy committee which he chairs and which is convening in the British capital. The committee will discuss the organization's strategy during the coming years.

UAE

CABINET DISCUSSES FUEL PRICE CRISIS

JN181218 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 February--The UAE cabinet dedicated its meeting today to the discussion of the fuel price crisis in the northern emirates. Last week the Emirates of Sharjah and Dubai witnessed student demonstrations protesting the price increases.

The INA correspondent reports that the Cabinet extensively discussed today a report prepared by Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, petroleum and natural resources minister. The report includes propositions for a quick solution to this problem.

In Al-'Ayn, the second city of Abu Dhabi, there were student demonstrations today protesting the price increases. The demonstrators headed for the residence of UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan where some of the student representatives met with Shaykh Zayid and presented their viewpoint.

Demonstrations Continue

GF161250 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 16-22 Feb 80 p 1 GF

[Text] Student demonstrations in protest against the recent petrol price increases in the UAE continued for a sixth straight day this week.

The rulers of Ra's al-Khaymah and Fujayrah met the students on Thursday to assure them their complaints against Western oil companies were being conveyed to President Shaykh Zayid. They praised the students for their "disciplined protest."

The protests erupted soon after petrol pump prices rose by 32.5 per cent last weekend. Seven hundred Sharjah students staged a three-hour demonstration through the streets of the emirates. As they marched on the second day, Sharjah ruler, Shaykh Sultan, met their leaders, supported their grievances and promised to submit their demands to the president.

As the demonstrations spread to Dubai, Ajman, Umm al-Quwayn, Ra's al-Khaymah and Khur Faqqan, taxi and abra drivers joined in the protest by raising their fares. In Fujayrah, the municipality said it would consider allowing taxi fare increases.

In Khur Faqqan, fishermen raised prices and threatened to stop fishing if prices were not lowered. Some supermarkets and food dealers raised prices by up to 40 per cent.

BP storage and distribution terminals in Sharjah were closed for a day following a telephoned bomb threat. BP officials and police searched the depots but found nothing.

An urgent memorandum on the petrol price rise is going to President Shaykh Zayid and Vice-President Shaykh Rashid after a second emergency meeting of a special Federal National Council committee meeting on Saturday.

The committee was expected to call for early action to relieve the crisis which has sparked new calls for internal unity and a permanent constitution.

FNC Speaker Mr. Taryam 'Umran Taryam told a session last week: "No internal conflict should be fanned at the moment."

NDP ISSUES STATEMENT ON ISRAELI WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

NC171501 Cairo MENA in English 1350 GMT 17 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 17 (MENA)--Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, deputy prime minister and secretary general of the National Democratic Party, today delivered a statement on behalf of the government before the People's Assembly on Israel's decision to continue erecting settlements in the West Bank and particularly in Hebron.

'Ubayd noted that the government acted quickly after hearing the decision and Dr. Mustafa Khalil, prime minister and foreign minister, sent a letter last Wednesday to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on the grounds that the United States is a full partner in the negotiations.

He added instructions were given to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Mauid, head of Egypt's delegation to the United Nations, to adopt a firm stand towards the issue and to join the Arab and Islamic states which asked that the issue be discussed in the Security Council with a view to issue an urgent decision halting the measures of settlement in the occupied Palestinian lands.

Makram 'Ubayd then read the letter of Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil to Cyrus Vance which underlined that Israel's measures on erecting settlements in the occupied Palestinian lands are illegitimate and constitute an escalation of the rejected Israeli policy in settlement in Palestinian lands. The message also described the Israeli resolution as a grave development not less than the illegitimate acts of the Israeli authorities in Jerusalem and it demonstrates Israel's intransigence in its claims for settlement in the West Bank and Gaza.

Dr. Khalil also asserted in his message that this policy is categorically rejected and does not conform with international codes and United Nations resolutions besides being a flagrant violation of the peace process in accordance with the peace framework agreed upon in Camp David.

The message also asserted that Israel's insistence to escalate the policy of settlements in the occupied lands is a breach of the letter and spirit of Camp David, mounts tension and leads to instability in the region in face of foreign threats.

This policy also, the message noted, leads to the Palestinian rejection of any agreement to be reached in autonomy negotiations.

ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC MISSION, PRESS ARRIVE IN CAIRO

NC171257 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 17 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 February--Israeli Minister Plenipotentiary Yosef Hadas arrived in Cairo this afternoon at the head of the Israeli diplomatic mission, which was met at the airport by Minister Plenipotentiary 'Adil Zaki from the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department. An Israeli press delegation arrived aboard the same plane.

OPENING OF ISRAELI EMBASSY IN CAIRO CELEBRATED

NC181206 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 February--The opening of the first Israeli Embassy in Cairo was celebrated at 1045 today.

After the ceremony, Israeli Embassy Minister Plenipotentiary Yosef Hadaas said: We hope to overcome the obstacles obstructing the road to comprehensive peace because nobody can disregard what is happening today. What is happening today is merely one step along the road of peace between Israel and all Arab states.

There are 6 diplomats and 9 administrative and security officials at the embassy. The first Israeli ambassador to Egypt, Elyahu Ben-Elisar, is scheduled to arrive in Cairo on 24 February.

AL-AHRAM CRITICIZES ISRAELI AMBASSADOR BEN-ELISAR

NC180744 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Feb 80 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] An editorial in AL-AHRAM criticizes the Israeli ambassador to Egypt, Elyahu Ben-Elisar, who has not yet arrived in Cairo and whose credentials have yet to be accepted.

The paper criticizes Ben-Elisar for stating that neither Cairo nor Washington have the right to tell Israel which places it is allowed to settle and which places it is not allowed to settle, because the West Bank is part of Israel. Elyahu Ben-Elisar also said that he would do his best to explain the nature of Zionism and of the Israeli people to the Egyptian people. Ben-Elisar added that Zionism, contrary to what some Arabs believe, is not an expansionist imperialistic movement but a national liberation movement.

Commenting on these statements, AL-AHRAM says: Elyahu Ben-Elisar, who will be assuming the post of ambassador for the first time, should have known that diplomatic norms require a certain degree of decorum--particularly when the matter is related to the establishment of normal relations. Elyahu Ben-Elisar should have been aware that it is Cairo's right--indeed, its task--to reject the Israeli settlement policies in occupied Arab lands. Cairo also has the right to tell the Israelis that it completely rejects the settlement of the West Bank because this is an Arab land--despite Mr Begin's allegations, which are supported by only a small faction of Israelis.

AL-AHRAM adds: We agree with Elyahu Ben-Elisar about the nature of his mission and efforts in Egypt, namely; trying to explain the nature of the Israeli people. As for trying to explain the nature of Zionism as not being an expansionist imperialistic movement, it should be pointed out that Ben-Elisar's remarks to this effect are not enough--despite his knowledge about the Zionist movement. This matter should be judged by deeds and not by words. The deeds, regrettably, continue to affirm the expansionist and imperialistic nature of the Zionist movement. Otherwise, it would not have taken over other peoples' territories, and it would not have diligently tried to alter the demographic and geographical realities of the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem.

AL-AHRAM concludes its editorial by noting that Elyahu Ben-Elisar should know that the acceptance of his credentials as Israel's ambassador in Cairo must not lead him to entertain the notion that Cairo will keep mum over the errant policies of Begin's government. Ben-Elisar should also know that, strictly speaking, he should not have been accepted as an ambassador in Cairo prior to Israel's complete withdrawal from the Sinai. Egypt has accepted [his appointment], however, in order to give an opportunity for good will gestures--which are not being enhanced by Ben-Elisar's statements.

EGYPTIAN MINISTER: ISRAEL TO NOT GET SPECIAL PRIVILEGES

NC180910 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Feb 80 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM publishes on its front page a statement by the minister of economics and foreign trade, Dr Hamid as-Sayih, in which he says that the Egyptian-Israeli normalization of relations in the economic sphere means the removal of the boycott [against Israel] but does not include the establishment of special relations. He added that normalization means the establishment of relations between the two countries on the basis of international norms for relationships, without any special privileges which do not apply to other countries.

ISRAELI COMMERCE MINISTER ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC181210 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 18 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Israeli Minister of Commerce and Industry Gid'on Pat arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of several days in Egypt, during which he will visit tourist sites in Egypt.

U.S. DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CAIRO 15 FEBRUARY

NC151930 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 February--James McIntyre, the director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, arrived in Cairo this afternoon at the head of a U.S. Congressional delegation for a 3-day visit to Egypt, during which he will meet with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil and People's Assembly speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib.

The 21-member delegation includes four Congressmen who are members of the management and budget committee. The delegation is accompanied by some reporters.

The delegation was met at the airport by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton, Director of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry Ambassador Ayyub Shararah and U.S. Embassy staff.

KHALIL MEETS WITH U.S. OMB DIRECTOR 16 FEB

NC161213 Cairo MENA in English 1155 GMT 16 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 16 (MENA)--Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. Mustafa Khalil today met with Director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget James McIntyre, who is currently visiting here.

Following the meeting, which was also attended by American ambassador to Egypt Alfred Atherton, McIntyre said he reviewed with Khalil the economic situation in Egypt in particular and the political situation in the Middle East in general.

In a statement following the meeting, Dr. Khalil welcomed the American guest and expressed hope for the recurrence of such meetings to foster bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Khalil went on to say that he reviewed with McIntyre the political and economic problems as well as the developments of the Mideast situation and the current international issues.

McIntyre arrived here yesterday leading a delegation of American Congressmen on a three-day visit to Egypt, during which he meets with Dr. Khalil and People's Assembly speaker Dr. Sufi Abu Talib.

Meets As-Sadat

NC161505 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1246 GMT 16 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 February--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today met with Mr McIntyre, the White House economic adviser, who was accompanied by a delegation of the U.S. Congress.

Meets Budget Committee

NC172038 Cairo MENA in English 2000 GMT 17 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb. 17--(MENA)--The People's Assembly's Planning and Budget Committee at a meeting held here tonight with the visiting U.S. Congress management and budget committee led by James McIntyre reviewed the economic spheres of interest to Egypt and the United States, and means of fostering economic relations between the two countries.

During the meeting attended by U.S. Ambassador to Cairo Alfred Atherton, McIntyre expressed his delight at what he had seen of development programmes in Egypt. He said that the discussion he had yesterday with President as-Sadat was fruitful and constructive. He also paid tribute to President as-Sadat's efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

McIntyre further expressed hope of boosting the existing American-Egyptian cooperation and affirmed that all what he has seen left a good impression on the members of his delegation. Chairman of the People's Assembly Planning and Budget Committee Dr Muhammad Dakruri praised the constructive cooperation between Egypt and the United States particularly in the economic field, and said that Egypt was passing now through a stage of total change and development.

He stressed the necessity to widen the sphere of cooperation between the two countries especially under the circumstances prevailing over the area since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

STUDENTS SAY IRAN FLOODED VILLAGES IN ARABISTAN

JN161651 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 February--Arabistan students in Iraq have denounced the criminal act of unleashing the waters of the (?Dez) Dam on Arabistan which was recently perpetrated by Khomeyni's regime.

In a statement distributed here today, the Arabistan Students League [Rabitat Talabat 'Arabistan] affirmed that this crime, which killed scores of Arab citizens and rendered their families homeless, is one in a series of crimes being perpetrated by this regime in order to liquidate the Arab presence in Iran. The league vowed that this barbaric deed will be confronted and defied by the Arabistan masses, who are struggling against the regime of suppression and terror as they struggled against the defunct regime of the shah.

The statement added that the deliberate releasing of the waters of the dam and the flooding of Arab villages is a crime which violates the simplest and most basic human concepts. It unmasks the Khomeyni regime's falsehood and lies and demonstrates its fascist policy.

In the statement, the Arabistan Students League affirmed that on 13 February, the Iranian authorities deliberately released the waters of the (?Dez) Dam in northern Arabistan, flooding most of the villages and drowning a number of people.

The league pointed out that the Iranian regime did not lift a hand to save the devastated areas. It deliberately besieged the area with its forces to prevent the arrival of medical supplies and relief to the beleaguered villages.

The league called on the Arab nation to unmask the Khomeyni regime's crimes against the people of Arabistan and to put an end to the crimes of mass executions and arrests against the citizens in this province.

COMMENTARY VIEWS BANI-SADR REMARKS ON IRANIAN MINORITIES

JN182036 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Bani-Sadr has finally backed out on the promises he made during the presidential elections on the rights of minorities in Iran. The Iranian president spoke about one of these minorities, the Kurdish minority, in a language full of threats and warnings, saying that he will fight this minority with the help of the army, the public security forces, the gendarmerie and Khomeyni's guards. Bani-Sadr said that demands by the Kurdish Democratic Party for self-rule do not in themselves constitute self-rule, but are a secessionist formula and that he is not ready to give in to such blackmail.

If Bani-Sadr has revealed his intentions in this manner and at this time, does this mean that Bani-Sadr showed a different disposition at earlier times? All that Bani-Sadr did was to make obscure statements on the need to solve the problems of minorities in Iran because he considers this as one of the priority tasks he has to carry out as president of the republic.

Bani-Sadr is part of a regime that thrives on sectarian and racial discrimination and implements a policy of nurturing the illusions of the Persian people's superiority over all the other minorities in Iran. If some wagered that Bani-Sadr would perform outstanding feats, this wager was based on the desire to see Iran emerge from the quagmire of disorder and instability and fight its way toward safe shores.

When they fail to confront the peoples in the non-Persian provinces on the battlefield, the Khomeyni authorities resort to the use of cowardly and treacherous methods, which clearly show the kind of morality the Iranian regime is practising and the way of thinking of its leaders. The opening of the (?Doz) dam in Arabistan resulted in hundreds of victims and huge property damages. This crime was coupled with the decision to impose an economic siege on the area and to prevent food supplies from reaching it in order to starve its people and force them to kneel.

This, then, is Dr Bani-Sadr's explanations on his plan to solve the problems of the non-Persian minorities after war operations in Arabistan, which is an oil-producing area, failed. That's why Bani-Sadr carried out measures of annihilation that only chauvinist, aggressive and diabolical persons would think of. If the other areas had been suitable grounds for carrying out similar crimes, the Khomeyni regime would not have hesitated to flood the Khuzestan, Azarbayjan and Baluchestan areas too. Who knows what diabolical plans the bloody regime in Tehran intends to carry out in all the provinces.

We would like to consider here the method that Bani-Sadr believed he could adopt to solve the problems of the minorities. Has he become so confused as to think that the great sacrifices the Arabs and Kurds have made were just transient whims or rash ventures which are not fit to be repeated?

The aspirations of the non-Persian minorities are well-known. They want to enjoy equal political and cultural rights, to obtain larger powers in administering their local affairs in accordance with the formula of self-rule. Anything else that the Khomeyni authorities try to discuss will mean that those authorities are maneuvering. These maneuvers will be foiled by the people's determination to obtain their rights.

The logic of the big stick has become an obsolete method, defeated by the Iranian people. This logic even weakened the Khomeyni regime itself which, realizing that its armed forces failed to impose their hegemony on the Iranian people, proclaimed jihad to wipe out the Arabs and the Kurds. However, Khomeyni's jihad has achieved nothing because Khomeyni has been working against history, justice and Islam and its values. In any case, Bani-Sadr will not be any better than Khomeyni.

FORMER LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER DEPARTS 16 FEB

JN161719 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 February--Former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam left Baghdad this evening following a 5-day visit to Iraq.

FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEFS AMBASSADORS ON CHARTER

JN171418 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 17 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 February--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met today with the ambassadors of states neighboring the Arab countries.

Dr Hammadi conveyed to the ambassadors the text of the pan-Arab charter declaration, which was proposed by President Saddam Husayn on 8 February, to regulate relations among the Arab countries. The discussion at the meeting focused on the article pertaining to relations between the Arab countries and neighboring countries, as stipulated in the charter declaration.

It will be recalled that the third article of the charter bans recourse to armed forces in resolving disputes between the Arab countries and foreign states, except in the case of self-defense and the defense of sovereignty against threats that harm the security and vital interests of the Arab countries.

HAMMADI DISCUSSES OUTCOME OF BRUSSELS, BONN VISITS

JN180851 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 February--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has announced that Iraq will sign two agreements for economic and cultural cooperation with Belgium and the FRG.

In a statement published here today, Dr Hammadi said that the agreements will constitute the backbone in developing bilateral relations with the two countries.

The Iraqi minister, who last week visited Belgium and the FRG, added that it was agreed to have all-round economic cooperation covering development and trade as well as technical fields and technological cooperation.

The cultural cooperation will cover all university activities, scientific research centers, training affairs and the development of intrinsic technical power.

Dr Hammadi called upon the EEC states to declare their impartial support for the unity of the Arab countries just as these countries support the unity and independence of the European countries.

Dr Hammadi called for cooperation between the Arab countries that are regular Arab League members and the European countries and for the establishment of long-range and developed economic relations based on legitimate mutual benefits, including the guaranteeing of EEC long-term energy requirements, motivating development in the Arab countries and effectively contributing to developing manpower.

Dr Hammadi also called for an understanding on the political issues which concern the two areas by means of collective work between the two groups and bilateral interaction between every Arab and European state.

The Iraqi minister expressed the conviction that there are no justifications for holding a European-Gulf dialog on economic and political aspects. He said that the possibilities of economic integration do exist between the European and Arab states collectively and not within the framework of the Arab Gulf states.

Dr Hammadi added: The industrial possibilities are limited in many Gulf states and so is technological development. Any plan on the political level would be futile because the basic political issue of the Arab nation is the Arab-Zionist struggle which concerns all the Arab countries and not just the Gulf states.

He said that Iraq is not against the setting up of bilateral relations between the Arab Gulf states and the EEC states. He asserted that the idea of holding a dialog was initially based on establishing a dialog with all the Arab states. He added that confining this dialog to the Arab Gulf states give the impression that the dialog is confined to the issue of oil.

Dr Hammadi said that the visits to Brussels and Bonn are part of a program currently being implemented by the ministry with the aim of contacting the European states. He said that he will soon visit Finland and Denmark.

He pointed out that the ministry will soon receive a number of European foreign ministers.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH BURUNDIAN MINISTER

JN191137 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 19 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 February--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with Lt Col Edouard Nzambimana, Burundian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, who arrived in Baghdad yesterday.

During the meeting, bilateral relations, issues of bilateral cooperation and the possibility of signing an economic and technical cooperation agreement were discussed.

SOVIET LABOR DELEGATION ARRIVES 18 FEB

JN181706 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 February--A labor delegation from the public services and administrative affairs union in the Soviet Union arrived here today on a 1-week visit to Iraq. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with Iraqi labor officials on the promotion of cooperation, the consolidation of vocational relations, the exchange of expertise and participation in vocational courses held in the two countries and in international conferences. The delegation will also familiarize itself with the trade union experiment in Iraq.

KING HUSAYN RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY

JN161621 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 80 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Donald McHenry, the U.S. permanent delegate to the United Nations, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. During the meeting, his majesty explained the Jordanian stand on the issue of just peace in the Middle East and Jordan's concepts regarding the future of the area and the international situation. His majesty was briefed by Mr McHenry on the U.S. viewpoint on the Middle East issue and current international issues. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister His Excellency ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Mr McHenry arrived in Amman at noon today on a 3-day visit to Jordan as part of a tour of several countries in the area. Upon his arrival at Amman airport, Mr McHenry said that Jordan's stand on the Middle East is of special importance in view of this stand's radical influence on the possibility of establishing a just and lasting peace in the area. He added that he will discuss with Jordanian officials the issue of Israeli settlement in the occupied Arab territories and the role that the United Nations might perform in the establishment of peace in the area.

Mr McHenry was received by the Foreign Ministry secretary general, senior Foreign Ministry officials and the U.S. ambassador and embassy staff in Amman.

Foreign Minister's Briefing

JN171247 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan al-Qasin explained today to Donald McHenry, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, the bases of Jordanian policy, Jordan's stand on a just peace in the Middle East and Jordan's views on the future of the area. Al-Qasim stressed that the only way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace is through the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to determine their fate in their homeland of Palestine and the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

Al-Qasim pointed out that the most recent proof that Israel continues to pursue its aggressive policy of building settlements on Arab territories and vacating them of their inhabitants is its aggression against Hebron. This reveals that Israel is pursuing an aggressive policy, violating all UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and scorning international public opinion, thus voiding Israeli claims that it is seeking a just and lasting peace. The minister explained that partial and separate agreements will not lead to a just peace but will lead the area to more pitfalls and perilous ventures that will negatively reflect not only on the Middle East area but on the entire world.

The minister was briefed by McHenry on the U.S. viewpoint concerning the Middle East and current international issues.

Meeting With Crown Prince

JN171503 Amman JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Amman, 17 February--His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan discussed in his office this morning with Donald McHenry, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, the new developments in the Middle East region as well as Israel's continued settlement in the Arab territories and its insistence on depriving the Arab inhabitants of these territories of their basic human rights, foremost of which are their rights to determine their future and gain control over their resources. His royal highness pointed out that Israel is an element of tension and instability in the entire region due to its intransigence and its insistence on imposing its will in the region.

Meeting With Prime Minister

JN172028 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Prime Minister His Excellency ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf received in his office this morning Mr Donald McHenry. The discussion dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East situation and several international issues. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Departure From Amman

JN180951 Amman JNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Amman, 18 February--Donald McHenry, U.S. permanent representstive to the United Nations, left Amman this morning after a 3-day visit to Jordan. During the visit he met with His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and the prime minister.

AR-RA'Y COMMENTS ON MCHENRY MIDEAST TOUR

JN160703 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Feb 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Donald McHenry, the U.S. permanent UN representative, is due in Amman today in the course of his tour of the area. The U.S. ambassador, who has described his trip as a familiarization tour, will be briefed in detail on Jordan's tenacious and frank stand on the Palestinian cause, as reiterated to other U.S. envoys.

In its editorial today, the newspaper AR-RA'Y poses the following question to those arriving from Washington: Has the U.S. administration the intention to and capability of changing its stand and of giving up its aspirations? The paper says: Perhaps it is useful to recall that the unstable situation in the area is the fruit of the continued Israeli aggression and of U.S. policy, which is aimed at peddling the Camp David accords. The U.S. policy envisages the possibility of using the Arab arena as a mainstay in the struggle with the Soviet Union.

The paper adds: There is no doubt that during his tour, McHenry has become acquainted will the dangers resulting from the U.S. stand on the area. Perhaps he has also sensed the importance of the time factor in overcoming these dangers. Needless to say, a change in the U.S. stand on the cause and an end to U.S. aspirations to use the Arab area as a mainstay in the international conflict are primary components in achieving a just and all-round peace and in establishing stability in this part of the world. The U.S. administration is aware of this fact. The U.S. envoy must have listened to and been reminded of this reality during this tour.

The question that remains to be answered is this: Has the U.S. administration the intention to and capability of changing its stand and of giving up its aspirations, particularly since the U.S. elections and their known effects on calculations are approaching? This question will continue to be posed to those who arrive from Washington from time to time, until it is answered.

AMMAN COMMENTARY NOTES 'TRANSFORMATION' IN U.S. POLICY

JN171853 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Feb 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The United States has recently begun to act in a manner which implies that it is reassessing its Middle East policy after it has become convinced that the Camp David accords cannot be a framework for the required comprehensive peace in the area, particularly since these accords have become captive to Israeli interpretations which do not serve the issue of peace as much as they serve Israel's expansionist designs and support its aggressive schemes in the Middle East.

Jordan has a clear stand on everything that has happened and should happen in the area. It is a stand that emanates from the Arab unanimity which was entrenched at the Baghdad and Tunis summit conferences. As the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations said yesterday, this stand is of special importance in view of its radical influence on the possibility of establishing a just and lasting peace in the area.

The new U.S. reassessment of the situation in general clashes with the previous concept. This indicates that there is a transformation in U.S. policy toward understanding the Arab stand despite the Camp David accords, particularly in the wake of the developments in Iran and Afghanistan and the impossibility of finding agreement or balance between the Camp David framework, which continues to represent Washington's official policy in the Middle East, and the framework of regional security on which the U.S. administration is trying to reach an understanding with the Arab world.

The U.S. talk on the role which the United Nations might play in establishing peace in the area, as was said by Donald McHenry, U.S. delegate to the United Nations, constitutes a new, significant dimension in the reassessment of the U.S. policy regarding the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Raising the issue of Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories during the U.S. delegate's visit to Amman is also significant if we take into consideration the United States' objection to the policy of Jewish settlement in the occupied Palestinian land.

All this clearly indicates that there are actual possibilities, at least on the part of the United States, of sidestepping the facts of Camp David, which were confined to entrenching Israel's expansionist designs in the occupied Arab territories, isolating Egypt from the Arab world and imposing Zionist hegemony on Egypt through the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Despite the various signs that have begun to surface concerning the trends of U.S. policy in the Middle East, the authenticity of the anticipated changes in this policy, which has been and continues to be committed to supporting and backing Israel, will be subjected to an actual test during the debates of the UN Security Council session, which was called for by the chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization and head of the Moroccan delegation to the Security Council, to discuss the dangerous state of affairs in Hebron and the recent Israeli measures which might bring the situation in the Middle East to a head.

It is certain that the yardstick of any transformation in the U.S. policy is the United States' stand on the various issues related to the rights of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.

In the opinion of the Arab world, the Camp David policy demonstrates the extent of the Zionist forces' ability to deviate the U.S. policies in the Middle East. U.S. reassurances and denunciations of settlement do not go beyond the context of verbal denunciation, which is not up to the level of the situation.

The United States has discovered that the magnitude of its interests in the Arab world does not allow it to disregard the basic issue in the Middle East, the issue of the Palestinian people. The United States has discovered that the repercussions of this issue and its biased stand on this issue negatively affect the outlook and stand of the peoples in the area toward the United States.

The United States is paying from its pocket for Israeli interests. Unless this equation changes and the United States begins to view the area with a balanced and just perspective and not from the framework of permanent commitment to supporting Israel's expansionism, the various peace plans will remain tools in Israel's hands to abort the Palestinian issue and, consequently, the issue of peace. The Camp David accords were a clear U.S. abandonment of the genuine principles and requisites of peace. Moreover, they were a deviation of the principles of peace. Can the United States comprehend this fact and amend it to become compatible with the genuine conditions for peace and with the essence of a just, comprehensive and universal peace? This is what the area is looking forward to and awaiting replies to.

AD-DUSTUR VIEWS U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

JN190759 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Feb 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "Nothing New in the U.S. Position," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR writes: Although U.S. strategy experts, including President Carter, realize the importance of relations between the Arab and Islamic worlds and the United States, the method the U.S. administration uses in building these relations cannot be accepted logically or practically. This method is based on two principles: intimidating Arabs with the dangers of a Soviet invasion, and threatening them with U.S. armed intervention to defend the Gulf--as if the Gulf were an oil state within the United States. The United States, more than any other country, is fully aware of Arab rejection of its partiality to the Zionist aggression and their condemnation of continued U.S. support for Israel in order to force the Arabs to accept fait accompli solutions in the region.

The paper adds: Although As-Sadat has submitted to Israel and the United States, as a result of which Egypt has lost Arab and Islamic aid and has not gained even the piece of land on which the Israeli flag is now being hoisted in the Ad-Duqqi suburb in Cairo, we will not be surprised to see the United States support Israel to the degree that it loses everything in the Arab and Islamic worlds without gaining even Israel itself. Will the U.S. administration awake and realize its false evaluation of the stands of the Arab and Islamic states and its superficial view of the Palestinian question? Or is it going to continue to achieve for Israel its aggressive and expansionist ambitions whatever the results may be?

GOVERNMENT URGES UN DEBATE ON HEBRON ISSUE

JN160654 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Feb 80 JN

[Text] The Jordanian Government has called for a UN Security Council emergency session to debate the critical situation resulting from the Israeli authorities' recent measures in occupied Hebron. The Israeli measures permit Jews to settle in the Arab town. This came in a memorandum submitted to the Security Council's current chairman by Jordan's permanent UN representative, Dr Hazim Nusaybah. The Jordanian memorandum urges the Security Council to debate the continued Israeli infringements in the occupied Arab territories. These infringements are represented by the establishment of Jewish settlements and by the violation of UN resolutions related to the occupied Arab territories.

AMBASSADOR McHENRY MEETS SARKIS, AL-HUSS, BUTRUS

NC151810 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Feb 80 NC

[Text] President Sarkis met this afternoon with Mr Donald McHenry and his delegation. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Gunther Dean.

The U.S. delegation under McHenry later called on Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. The meeting was attended by Lebanon's representative at the United Nations, Ghassan Tuwayni, and the Lebanese ambassador in Washington, Khalil 'Itani.

At 1600 Mr McHenry called on Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at his home in Ad-Dawhah. After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss said: In my talks with Mr McHenry, the U.S. representative at the United Nations, I dealt with the situation in south Lebanon. I underlined the need for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions in such a way that the UN forces would be able to control and take up positions in the border strip, thus enabling the Lebanese state to reimpose its authority in the entire south, all the way to the internationally recognized borders. I also affirmed the fundamental role the United States could play in putting pressure on Israel to facilitate the implementation of the UN resolutions.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: We are confident that the United States can exercise effective pressure on Israel toward this end in view of the close relationship between the two countries, which is most clearly represented by the huge economic and military aid which Israel receives annually from the United States.

Prime Minister al-Huss said: I also reviewed with Mr McHenry the situation in the Middle East in light of the recent serious developments that the area has witnessed and the activities that have taken place, and also in light of our stand which is consistent with the Arab consensus of rejecting the Camp David accords. The accords have ignored the crux of the Middle East problem by ignoring the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Butrus Statement

NC151812 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Feb 80 NC

[Statement by Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus following his 15 February meeting in Beirut with the U.S. representative at the United Nations, Donald McHenry--recorded]

[Text] It is obvious that I asked that Mr McHenry's country use all its efforts to bring about the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on south Lebanon. My talks with Ambassador McHenry dealt with two or three subjects, the most important being the question of the south and the need for the implementation of the Security Council resolutions. Nonimplementation of the agreements and the failure to prepare the necessary ground for implementation will lead to results that will not be in the interests of Lebanon, the Arabs or the Palestinians.

[Question] Have you perceived any readiness for implementation on his part?

[Answer] Ambassador McHenry showed interest in everything we told him and readiness to study the subject and do whatever is necessary to facilitate implementation.

[Question] Can the U.S. envoy's tour be considered a new U.S. initiative in Lebanon and the Middle East?

[Answer] We cannot consider it a new initiative unless we consider every activity by any diplomat to be an initiative.

[Question] There are reports that your excellency plans to visit Moscow. Are these reports true?

[Answer] I have just heard such news for the first time. I am ready to visit any capital and any country with which we have friendly relations if such a visit can be beneficial. [end recording]

McHenry Departure

NC161250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Donald McHenry, the U.S. representative at the United Nations, left Beirut at noon today for Amman after holding talks with Lebanese officials on the situation in Lebanon and the area.

SARKIS SAYS CABINET DISCUSSES NATIONAL DETENTE

NC161417 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] The Cabinet held an extraordinary meeting at 1100 today. Addressing the Cabinet, President Sarkis said: We have devoted this meeting to discussing national detente. Lebanon is passing through very delicate circumstances. The more delicate and grave the circumstances, the more efforts we must make to surpass them. Calamities must lead to work, activity and optimism; not negligence and pessimism. At this particular juncture, I would like to address the Lebanese, all Lebanese, in the language of national detente for which they yearn and for which they work seriously.

President Sarkis added: The shortest road to a successful solution is that road aimed at reaching the crux of the issue. As long as we agree on the crux, let us start with it and then it will be easy to solve the remaining problems. This issue involves our national detente. I am confident that the Lebanese are eager for detente. This prompted me in the past to concentrate on the need to declare this detente. Regardless of the circumstances which prevented the declaration of this detente, it is time now to declare what we all believe in, let us start with the many things that bring us together and leave aside the small things that keep us apart.

President Sarkis said: We are in a democratic country in which the people have the final say. Therefore, I appeal to all Lebanese to respond to this appeal and to facilitate the state's efforts. Afterward, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss spoke about the outcome of the visit which he paid at the head of an official delegation to Syria and his meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and high-ranking Syrian officials. Prime Minister al-Huss praised the fraternal atmosphere that prevailed during the talks and the feelings President al-Asad expressed toward Lebanon.

Afterward, the Cabinet reviewed past efforts to create an atmosphere conducive to bringing about detente among all the Lebanese factions, which has always been the main aim of the government. After the Cabinet heard the views on this matter President Sarkis declared that in the near future he would successively invite the political functionaries for a meeting in the presence of Prime Minister al-Huss to sound their opinion about everything pertaining to this subject.

VOL: LAWYERS SEE FRANJIYAH, KIDNAPED DEPUTY

NC161806 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 16 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Lawyers George Jabr and Francois Jabr have accomplished the mission assigned to them in Ehharta. Their mission was connected with the detention of Deputy Edmund Rizq. The two lawyers saw former President Franjiyah and later met with deputy Edmund Rizq, who gave them an oral message to his family. The two lawyers returned to Beirut at 1900 today and proceeded to meet with former President Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil.

USSR REPORTEDLY TO SUPPLY SYRIA WITH MIG-27 AIRCRAFT

JN160713 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Feb 80 p 1 JN

[Text] Riyadh--A dispatch from Damascus reports that the Soviet Union has decided to supply Syria with two squadrons of MiG-27 planes.

Reporting this, the Saudi magazine AL-YAMAMAH says that 25 Syrian pilots will arrive at a Soviet military base within the next 2 weeks to be trained on flying these planes.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON DELEGATION'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

For the text of the joint communique issued on the occasion of the visit by the Syrian Ba'th Party Delegation headed by Abdallah Al-Ahmar, deputy general secretary of the party, to the USSR from 4-11 February, as published in PRAVDA on 13 February, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 18 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES HUNGARIAN PEACE DELEGATION

JN161315 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, and the Hungarian Peace Council delegation led by Secretary General Sebestyen have reviewed the latest developments in the region.

Comrade al-Ahmar explained Syria's principled policy on confronting the fierce imperialist-Zionist onslaught, as well as the country's determination to foil the Camp David plans and to liberate all Arab lands, to the Hungarian delegation. He welcomed the guest delegation and expressed his appreciation of the Hungarian Peace Council's efforts to defend peace and the causes of freedom in the world.

Mrs Sebestyen expressed her appreciation of the achievements witnessed by the delegation. She declared, in the name of the Hungarian council, their support for our just struggle to liberate the Arab lands and regain the Arab rights. She denounced imperialist movements in the region and the world, which threaten world peace and security.

Meanwhile, final talks were held this morning between the Syrian Peace Partisans movement Central Council delegation led by Comrade George Saddiqni, Ba'th Party National Command member and the council's chairman, and the Hungarian Peace Council delegation led by Secretary General Mrs Sebestyen. They discussed the provisions of the joint statement that will be issued later in Damascus and Budapest simultaneously. They also discussed some matters related to the works of the two councils.

Delegation Departs

JN171952 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Hungarian Peace Council delegation led by Mrs Sebestyen left Damascus for Budapest at noon today at the end of a 5-day visit to Syria. During the visit, the delegation held talks with the Syrian Peace Council and met with some comrade officials at the party, state and popular organizations.

Joint Statement

JN181715 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] The Syrian Peace Partisans movement Central Council and the Hungarian Peace Council issued a joint statement today. The joint statement denounced the treasonous Camp David agreements and the normalization of relations between As-Sadat and the Zionist entity.

The statement stressed that the capitulatory trend followed by the As-Sadat regime poses a threat to Middle East and world peace and security. The two sides strongly denounced the autonomy talks' conspiracy against the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They also denounced Israel's policy of expansion in the occupied Arab territories, particularly in Jerusalem, the establishment of settlements and violation of the holy places.

The two sides stressed that just and lasting peace in the region depends upon Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the recogntiion of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state in their homeland.

The two sides praised the resolutions adopted by the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the firm stand taken by the front at its recent Damascus conference.

The Hungarian side expressed its appreciation for Syria's leading role in confronting imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and plots.

POLICE ATTACK MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD 'DEN' IN ALEPPO

JN181650 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] At an early hour today, security forces attacked a den used by the Muslim Brotherhood gang in the As-Sakhur quarter in Aleppo. Following an exchange of fire with the members of the gang, who had previously committed a number of murders in Aleppo and the Aleppo governorate, the security forces killed the eight criminals who were in the den.

The security forces also found an arms cache which included 24 automatic rifles, 7 RPG launchers, 24 rockets, 22 explosive charges, 14 pistols, 38 pistol magazines, a number of handgrenades and a number of documents on the activities of the gang and its criminal plans against the government and society.

VOL: 34 SYRIAN SOLDIERS KILLED IN AMBUSH IN ALEPPO

NC181320 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 18 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Thirty-four Syrian officers and soldiers were killed in Aleppo on Saturday when their bus was ambushed by Muslim Brotherhood members. Following that, explosions and clashes spread to all parts of Aleppo and continued until this morning.

Our correspondent reports that a bus carrying officers and soldiers was ambushed at 0730 on Saturday in Ar-Rammushi quarter near the artillery school in Aleppo. Thirty-four officers and soldiers were killed in the ambush. The correspondent adds that an atmosphere of terror prevailed when the clashes and explosions spread to all parts of Aleppo. Two people were killed near the intelligence service center in the As-Sabil quarter. Sounds of explosions and machineguns continued to be heard until this morning.

ALGERIA

BULGARIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES IN ALGERIA ON VISIT

LD171448 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Army General Dobri Dzhurov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and defense minister, arrived in Algiers this morning on a several-day visit of friendship being paid at the invitation of the Ministry of National Defense. He was greeted at the Houari Boumediene airport by Col Kasdi Merbah, general secretary of the Defense Ministry and by other high-ranking officers of this ministry.

Talks Begin

LD172248 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Mr Kasdi Merbah, secretary general of the Defense Ministry, heading a delegation of his ministry, has begun talks with the Bulgarian defense minister, who arrived in Algiers this morning. The talks are devoted to the possibilities of strengthening ties between the two armies.

Meets Assembly Leader

LD182158 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Summary] Rabih Bitat, speaker of the People's Assembly, today received the Bulgarian Defense Minister, General Dobri Dzhurov, and discussed the development of relations of friendship between the two countries. The Bulgarian Defense Minister was also received by the party coordinator and discussed means of strengthening relations between the two parties.

LIBYA

QAFSAH UPRISING 'BEGINNING OF END' OF TUNISIAN REGIME

LD191044 Tripoli JANA in English 0955 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Paris, February 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that the recent popular uprising of the Tunisian people is a purely internal revolution. He added: "We challenge any proof, if only one, that Libya has anything to do with it, specifying that the Tunisian Government did know that it was facing an internal revolution, and so did France."

In an interview with [words indistinct] daily "LIBERATION," he explained that the regime in the Tunisian protectorate decided to accuse a neighbouring country and hold it responsible for the uprising because it realized it was not in its interest to recognize that it was an internal revolution. He continued that at the beginning the regime hesitated about whether to accuse Algeria or Libya but that King Hassan of Morocco advised him to accuse Libya. This is because the regime knew, he explained, that if it accused the Algerians, Libya would express its solidarity with them, which would be dangerous for the Moroccan regime itself. He went on to say that by accusing the Jamahiriyah the regime wanted to isolate Libya from Algeria by setting it against both Tunisia and France. In this respect he specified that the attempt to polarize and flatter Algeria aimed at creating differences between Algeria and Libya.

He went on to say that the king of Morocco is seeking presence east and West of Algeria so as to confront it while it cannot have Libyan support. These, he said, are the calculations of Morocco to isolate Algeria. The leader of the revolution stressed that the popular revolution which started in Qafsah and spread to all the other cities and places of Tunisia is the beginning of the end of the ruling regime in the Tunisian protectorate.

Asked whether the time has come for the Tunisian people to drop political struggle and start armed struggle, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi answered that it was up to the Tunisian people to decide whether or not to take up arms. He said that the Libyans will always take a stand with the Tunisian people. He said that the traditional opponents of the Tunisian regime have decided to change their mind and join the popular revolution.

He continued: "Our opposition to the Tunisian regime has become a reality and will remain so." About the ruling regime's attempt to exploit the people's revolution to firmly establish its territorial policy under the so-called national unity, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that the spirit of regionalism is no more than superficial bubbles covering the reactions of Arab unionists. He went on to say that whenever these bubbles increase, the feelings for Arab unity increase too. This is evident with the appearance of a new generation of unionists.

He stated that when he visited Tunisia he was welcomed by unionist demonstrations in several Tunisian cities including Tunis, Nabil, Safaqis, (Kerouan) and Qafsah. In this respect he specified: "I actually met a new generation of unionists who wrote unionist slogans on slates so as to erase them afterwards lest should the police see them."

Concerning the French invasion of Tunisia, he said: "This led us to realize, for the first time, that there could be a wide-ranging confrontation which is likely to spread to other places of North Africa, maybe to all Africa the Middle East and Far East, and we will act to spread it to other countries."

He warned that: "If the situation deteriorated we will use all our arms in this confrontation, adding: "We have fought colonialism in Africa, and in the Arab world at a time when we were in a bad situation. So what about today when we possess energy and means of pressure on the world?"

IRANIAN AMBASSADOR RECEIVED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY

LD161952 Tripoli JANA in English 1808 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The foreign secretary, Dr. 'Ali at-Turayki, today received the Iranian ambassador accredited to Kuwait, Dr. 'Ali Shams Ardakani, and the delegation accompanying him. Their discussion covered the consolidation of bilateral relations and the unifying of efforts in the service of Muslim causes.

The Iranian ambassador praised the solidarity the grand al-Fatah revolution has shown towards the Iranian Revolution and its positive stand regarding the ousted shah and his repressive measures against the Iranian people. Dr. Ardakani is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah to finalise preparations for the opening of an embassy of the Iranian Islamic Republic in Libya.

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT APPROVES PAN-ARAB CHARTER

LD181100 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 18 February--The Libyan Foreign Secretariat has expressed Libya's satisfaction at the pan-Arab charter announced by Iraq. The charter rejects the presence of any foreign military forces or armies in the Arab homeland or the granting to them of facilities in any form or under any pretext. It also provides for checking any aggression or violation by foreign party of the sovereignty of any Arab country and the foiling of such aggression by all means.

TUNISIA

LIBYAN ATTACK CONDEMNED BEFORE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

LD161616 Tunis TAP in English 1400 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Geneva, Feb 16 (TAP)--Answering the Libyan delegate's allegations during the meeting of the U.N. Commission of Human Rights in Geneva, Tunisia's delegate qualified the Libyan statement as being absurd. "Coming from Libya," he said, "we are not astonished about it, we are not, we are not anymore to more or less contradictions. [sentence as received] Libya's delegate who wants now to pose as a defender of human rights and of the rights of peoples to self-determination should have dealt with a careful precaution with an issue that nothing and especially not a recent past allow him to refer to."

After stressing that the arrogances of speech and the plots of the Libyan delegate are not at all appropriate for carrying out well of the commission's works, the Tunisian delegate added: "We do not think that the Libyan delegation would be entitled to teach lessons. Such a delegation, the government of which never stopped interfering in internal affairs of a certain number of states, which [word indistinct] adventures which resulted for him in mischances, is still occupying, in the present time, a part of the Chadian territory.

"I have to say to the Libyan delegation," Tunisia's representative went on, "that there are all around the world enough just causes to be defended, that of the Palestinian people for example, that Libya presently cleaves through its tentatiousness [as received] on the PLO, the legitimate and authentic representative of this people".

He moreover wondered if Libya was respecting the principles it is trying to defend today in the course of (?its) wretched expedition in Uganda? "Did this government act on that occasion for the defence of human rights in this country?"

After specifying that arrogance and sometimes wealth are bad advisors, Tunisia's representative stated: "My country wittingly and freely chose to open schools rather than training camps.

"We do not possess," he added, "the ultra-sophisticated arsenal of our southern neighbour, but we can ensure him about our determination to be opposed to any foreign interference no matter where it comes. We can also tell him that a country which has recently fought the battle of Bizerta for the total evacuation of foreign troops, is not ready now to let itself be occupied, were it by mercenaries whose stamp bears witness to their origin."

OAU COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION ON QAFSAH REPORTED

LD161605 Tunis TAP in English 1409 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, Feb 16 (TAP)--The speech delivered February 13 by the head of the Tunisian delegation at the OAU Ministerial Council aroused a great interest on behalf of the delegations participating in the 34th session of the Organization of African Unity's council.

In the course of his speech, the head of the Tunisian delegation presented a report on the Libyan regime's subversive intrigues and recalled the fundamental lines of the Tunisian policy which works towards reaching economic and social progress within the framework of peace and international legality. This speech has been distributed as an official document in three languages to the Ministerial Council.

Furthermore, the council approved in the course of [word indistinct] closing session, the session's definite report.

The final dispositions of this report include the following information concerning the aggression against Qafsah: "The Ministerial Council, preoccupied by these events and on invitation of the other delegations:

"A. Reaffirmed the necessity for all the organization member states to respect the principles of the OAU Charter, especially the respect of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states and non-interference in other states' internal affairs.

"B. Asks the OAU secretary general and the president of the Ministerial Council to carefully follow the situation and to report about it to the coming council.

"C. Invites the OAU acting president to fully examine this issue and to make use of his wisdom, advice and influence with a view to coming out with detente and normalization of relations between the two states."

These final dispositions have been unanimously approved by the Ministerial Council. The very wording of this consensus that the OAU has been clearly convinced by the arguments presented by Tunisia about the direct responsibility of the Libyan regime (?in) the conception, organization and carrying out of the aggression against Qafsah.

MALI, TUNISIA TO COORDINATE ACTIONS AGAINST AGGRESSION

AB141415 Paris AFP in English 1139 GMT 14 Feb 80 AB

[Text] Bamako, Feb 14 (AFP)--Mali and Tunisia have agreed to coordinate their actions to defend against future aggression, a Tunisian minister said after discussing the Qafsah attack with Malian President Moussa Traore.

Radio Mali said that Tunisia's minister of transport and telecommunications, Hassan Belkhodja, brought a message from President Habib Bourguiba to President Traore yesterday.

The radio said Mr Belkhodja also gave the president "documents on the aggression of Qafsah by elements that came from Libya" and expressed "the sentiments of gratitude of the Tunisian Government and people for Mali's firm, energetic and unambiguous position toward the situation."

As he left President Traore's office, Mr Belkhodja said, "We decided to coordinate our actions to face any future agression against our respective countries and to cooperate equally in development as in defense."

President Traore said Monday, referring to the attack on Qafsah that "it is too bad that those who possess resources use them for subversion".

Tunisia has accused Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of being behind the commando attack on the southwestern Tunisian city last month in which 41 persons were reported killed and 11 wounded. The Tunisians say the assault was carried out by Tunisian rebels trained in Libya and had been designed as a first step toward the overthrow of President Bourguiba.

BOURGUIBA CITED ON FRENCH AID DURING QAFSAH AFFAIR

LD151149 [Editorial Report LD] Tunis L'ACTION in French 12 February publishes on page 6 a 1,400-word unattributed report citing an interview granted to Paris LE FIGARO magazine special envoy Albert Zarca by Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba in Nefta. It includes the following remarks:

"Now, 99 years after the beginning of the colonial era, France has shown itself to be worthy of the image it has in the world. It realized that, in the Qafsah affair, Tunisia and the western Mediterranean were in danger. France did not hesitate. It came to Tunisia's aid before even being asked. It sent warships to the Gulf of Gabes. This is not interventionism; it is simply a contribution toward maintaining peace.

"It is vital to take care: Destabilizing Tunisia means destabilizing the western Mediterranean and the whole region. That would have incalculable consequences for the Western world. I constantly say: 'Take care, hegemony is growing worse, the world is in danger of being drawn toward the abyss.' France has understood our anxiety and I am happy and moved by that. What can I reply? Thank you, the French people have not surprised me. They have reacted as their great men have accustomed us to see them react."

'INTERDEPENDENCE' OF WESTERN, ISLAMIC INTERESTS STRESSED

LD151321 Tunis L'ACTION in French 12 Feb 80 p 6 LD

[Albert Zarca interview with Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira reprinted from 9 February issue of Paris LE FIGARO magazine: "Insuring the Security of Tunisian Territory At Any Cost"--date, place not specified]

[Excerpt] [Question] What will be the consequences of this? [reference to attack on Qafsah]

Hedi Nouira: In Tunisia, the situation prompts us to revise our political priorities. Until now our priorities have been of a social nature. More than 50 percent of the budget was earmarked for social requirements. However, we now have to face new imperatives--we must insure that the security of Tunisian territory cannot be threatened, no matter what the cost. Nonetheless, our social objectives remain valid.

[Question] Referring to security: France has intervened by giving Tunisia logistical support. Exactly what sort of relations exist between France and Tunisia?

Hedi Nouira: Our relations with France are simply exemplary in all spheres.

However, I will go beyond the framework of Tunisian-French relations. I would like to talk about Europe. Without going as far as saying that Islam could save the West, I believe that there is an "interdependence of interests" between the West and Islam, just as between countries bordering on the Mediterranean and Europe. History has shown since ancient times that there is only "one" Mediterranean as far as repercussions of events in any of the Mediterranean countries are concerned. This solidarity is "instinctive."

It is geopolitical. As for Europe, it must play the role to which it is entitled. It represents a kind of safety valve which can enable Mediterranean countries to "recover their balance."

Tunisia needs cooperation with foreign countries in general and France in particular. We have never let any investors down. Tunisia has always kept its promises. In other words, we are reliable partners and any confidence in us is not misplaced.

[Question] And what about the Libyan nuclear bomb? Aren't you worried about it?

Hedi Nouira: He has none at present and, in any case, I hope for Libya's sake that he never will have one. Don't forget history. Major and serious conflicts are never started by those who can start them. This reasoning also applies to nuclear warfare. It is not necessary to have the nuclear bomb to instigate a war of this kind. It is possible to involve countries which have such bombs and could find themselves waging war almost against their will. At this level Al-Qadhdhafi is dangerous. He is capable of plunging the world into nuclear terror. This is why I say to the free world, the West, Europe and France: "You have loyal partners. Listen to them and help them while showing respect for them. You won't be let down...."

WESTERN SAHARA

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN SAHARA CITED

LD151437 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 13 Feb 80 p 9 LD

[Francoise Germain-Robin dispatch: "French Military Advisers for Hassan II?"]

[Text] New French military advisers apparently arrived in Smara--a Western Saharan city occupied by Moroccan Royal Army forces--in mid-January. This was revealed to the press by Lance Corporal Adda Ould Khouna--a Saharan forcibly drafted into the Moroccan army who went over to the POLISARIO Front a few days ago. Adda Ould Khouna was a member of the Smara garrison. He explained that he had seen the new advisers several times: He recognized them as French army officers by their uniform--a paratrooper uniform--and their military insignia. He did not know the exact nature of their mission. He also stated that the Smara garrison had also received new equipment: twin-barreled guns, American Chinnook helicopters and radar equipment.

Therefore, if this report were to be confirmed, it would show that just when Giscard d'Estaing was receiving the Algerian Foreign Minister in Paris and assuring him of France's neutrality in the Saharan conflict, French soldiers were being sent to the Western Sahara to strengthen and encourage the Moroccan aggression.

This would be a very serious matter and a veritable breach of faith by the French Government. It would mean that, far from encouraging a negotiated solution as it claims to be doing, it is trying to pour fat in the fire and assert itself in the region by any means, as was shown by its haste to intervene in Tunisia.

MORNING PRESS COMMENTS ON CAIRO EMBASSY OPENING

TA190737 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 Feb 80 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] Most of the papers dedicate their editorials to the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo.

DAVAR says that the fund-raising ceremony in Cairo was an exciting moment. It can only be hoped that the continued political process will not be disappointing and will not dissipate the excitement of the great moments. Hope is not sufficient though--we should make our active contribution to the continued process, lest the price we have already paid become useless.

HA'ARETZ says Israel wanted to highlight the opening of the embassy in Cairo as much as possible, while Egypt took pains to play it down as much as possible. Time should be allowed to take its course, and we had better not try to aid this process by overzealous activity. It is, however, clear that the ambassador and his staff should make efforts to explain Israel well to the Egyptian people and to gain the sympathy of the Egyptian public as well as that of the official Egyptian leadership. A great deal will depend on our representatives' personal talents, especially since the establishment of the embassy, according to the peace treaty, does not mean that all disagreements over autonomy have been officially resolved.

HATZOFE says that a lot of patience is needed in the negotiations with Egypt, particularly since the U.S. administration's representative supports Egypt's stand on autonomy. However, the peace that the Americans and the Egyptian president desire will be established only with Israel's approval. Despite the verbal attack against settlement in the territories, settlement will be tolerated when its implementation follows the timing and location specified in the [settlement] program. A policy proving Israel's adherence to principle as well as flexibility may turn the opening of the embassies into a most promising point in the policy of both countries toward each other and the region as a whole.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes it is precisely now that President as-Sadat is urging a second Camp David summit and is even raising ideas different from those included in the original Camp David summit's decisions. The very fact that As-Sadat is raising these ideas now signals that Egypt will not give up its efforts to solve the Palestinian problem and determine the future of the occupied territories, and it will not follow the Begin government's recipe either. The autonomy plan, so highly praised by the Likud leaders, is now being revealed as the road leading directly to a Palestinian state.

The Jerusalem POST says that even without the overt link between the peace treaty and the autonomy plan for the Palestinians, Egypt has remained very attached to its Arab vision. This vision has not been marred by the light reprimand absorbed by Hasan-at-Tuhami, who questioned the wisdom of As-Sadat's peace policy. No trick has yet been found to guarantee the permanence of peace. Peace with Egypt may fail, but this fear should surely not discourage us from attempting to establish it.

NORMALIZATION COMMITTEE SETS MARCH MEETING DATE

TA171130 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Feb 80 p 2 TA

[Text] The full Israeli-Egyptian normalization committee, headed by Ministers 'Ezer Weizman and Kamal Hasan 'Ali, will meet in Cairo at the beginning of March to conclude the discussions of the subcommittees. The committee will present President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin with the agreements reached between the two countries.

Defense Minister Weizman and the senior normalization team, composed of Major General Tamir, Brig Gen Efrayim Poran and Elyaqim Rubinstein, will travel to Cairo on 9 March for a 5-day visit. The objective of this visit is to sum up all the deliberations of the eight subcommittees. Defense Minister Weizman and Egyptian Defense Minister General 'Ali have agreed to submit their conclusions and the agreements a week before the date set by Begin and As-Sadat, by 20 March.

Egyptian Defense Minister 'Ali will arrive in Israel this week at the head of a 30-man delegation for a 5-day visit. He will meet with Defense Minister Weizman twice and will tour the country. He will also visit defense establishment industrial plants. This will be the fourth meeting between the Israeli defense minister and his Egyptian counterpart since the signing of the Camp David agreement.

DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY ON TOURISM, COMMUNICATIONS 17 FEB

TA171032 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The talks on cooperation in tourism between Israel and Egypt officially opened today in Cairo. Among other things, the parties will decide on registration procedures at the border terminals and the prospects for opening tourist offices and exchanging data.

The Israeli-Egyptian joint committees dealing with sea and ground transportation and communications convened in Tel Aviv about 1 hour ago. The transportation committee will discuss arrangements for the issuing of licenses for cars and drivers and insurance. The communications committee will discuss, among other things, laying a communication cable in the Sinai.

COMPANIES TO NEGOTIATE DIRECT PURCHASE OF EGYPTIAN OIL

TA161022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Representatives of three Israeli oil companies will be going to Egypt to discuss purchasing oil directly from the Egyptian national company. Our correspondent, Yosi Melman, reports that until 26 February, three international companies will buy oil for Israel. However, after that date responsibility for the supply of oil passes to the Israeli companies and they will transport it in tankers manned by Israeli crews.

AS-SADAT DISCUSSES JERUSALEM ISSUE WITH MAPAM DELEGATION

TA171853 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Back in Israel are some members of the left-wing MAPAM Party who spent a week in Egypt and talked with President as-Sadat. The delegation was the guest of Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party. In the As-Sadat meeting, the Egyptian leader set out his thinking about Jerusalem. MAPAM's political secretary, Dov Zakin, told reporter Shim'on Ayalon about the meeting.

[Begin Zakin recording] The conversation with the president lasted more than an hour and a half. He touched upon all the political topics, including Jerusalem, the Palestinian problem, the question of security borders and so on. We presented the views of MAPAM and he presented his own views. In many areas we found common ground for further discussions. As far as Jerusalem is concerned, he accepted our idea, or part of our ideas, that Jerusalem should not be divided and no barbed wire should cross the city.

He also expressed, for the first time, his readiness that we will have in Jerusalem a separate Arab municipality or borough council with an Arab flag, which we didn't accept, certainly and a Jewish municipality and, on top of it, a joint federal municipality which will deal with all the issues of Jerusalem. As far as I know, this was the first pronouncement for an operative schedule of the leading and management of the city. We presented our views, of MAPAM, demanding security, changes and amendments of the borders, not grabbing territory; however, we insisted upon security changes. We had a discussion about it, and, in the last anaylsis, he said, yes, he understands that some right changes could be accepted by the Arab side. He underlined that he cannot speak about the Palestinians or in the name of the Palestinians, neither about the Jordanians. But as far as he is asked, his attitude is as follows, and I presented briefly what he said to us, concerning Jerusalem and concerning the right of slight amendments on the borders. [end recording]

CHARGE D'AFFAIRES DEPARTS FOR EGYPT 17 FEB

TA170934 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The first Israeli charge d'affaires to Egypt, Yosef Hadas, departed for Cairo this morning. Tomorrow morning, he will hoist the Israeli flag on the embassy building.

Speaking to a REUTER correspondent in Tel Aviv, Dr Hadas said: This is an exciting moment for all of us. We will now have to make a special effort to develop daily relations based on mutual physical presence. I am certain that this will not be an isolated move. We will now have to work hard to overcome the impact of 30 years of hostile propaganda in the Egyptian media.

The REUTER correspondent notes that Dr Yosef Hadas and his staff were accompanied by 50 Israeli correspondents.

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR WILL PRESENT CREDENTIALS 26 FEB

TA161657 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 16 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem says that the Egyptian ambassador will present his credentials in Jerusalem. Ambassador El'yahu Ben-Elisar will on the same day, 26th of February, present his credentials to President as-Sadat.

Earlier, a REUTER Cairo correspondent reported citing senior officials that Egypt's Ambassador Sa'd Murtada would present his credentials to the president of state in Tel Aviv and that the ceremony would take place on the 25th of the month. Egypt and Israel are opening their embassies tomorrow in each other's countries.

Diplomatic Team Delays Departure

TA170641 Jerusalem POST in English 17 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday that its diplomatic mission to Tel Aviv, originally scheduled to arrive in Israel today, will be delayed until Wednesday.

Israeli Foreign Ministry officials said late last night it was still unclear to them precisely when the 12-man Egyptian team would arrive, but that it was sending its own mission to Cairo today as scheduled.

EGYPTIAN AUTONOMY WORKING TEAM ARRIVES 18 FEB

TA181215 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The Egyptian autonomy working team arrived in Israel before noon and began its discussions with the Israeli team. The meeting is taking place in the Tel Aviv Laromme Hotel. The Egyptian delegation will stay here for 3 days. The plenum of the working teams will confer in the afternoon.

MINISTER PAT DEPARTS FOR EGYPT TO DISCUSS WAGE PACTS

TA180809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Commerce and Industry Minister Gid'on Pat left for an official visit to Egypt this morning. The minister said he will discuss the wage agreements between the two countries in preparation for the talks on these agreements in Tel Aviv next week.

A special Egyptian delegation will arrive in Israel next week to participate in the negotiations.

Minister Pat emphasized that Israel wants to maintain mutual trade relations and does not want Israeli merchants to flood Egypt with unilateral proposals.

JERUSALEM RADIO ASSESSES AS-SADAT'S 'TRIPARTITE MANDATE'

TA181415 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 18 Feb 80 TA

[Text] On the eve of the establishment of the embassy [in Cairo] came a well-placed little bombshell from Cairo. It concerns a proposal reportedly being worked out by President as-Sadat himself for the creation of a tripartite mandate over the West Bank and Gaza areas involving Israel, Egypt and the United States.

Reports from Cairo say that the idea is for the mandate to be limited to a 5-year period corresponding to the autonomy framework agreed at Camp David, after which the local inhabitants of these areas should be given the right of self-determination. They would be given the choice of independence, federation with Jordan or confederation with Israel. So far, there is no official reaction to these ideas here in Israel. But Arye Hezqel has been looking into the proposal:

The origin of the Cairo reports, it appears, is a top-level briefing held in the Egyptian capital yesterday. It is not known for certain who gave the briefing, but speculation has it that it may have been Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil. What is behind the proposal: The informed sources to whom I have been speaking here, in Jerusalem, today believe that President as-Sadat may be seeking in this way to find a compromise on the ticklish question of the source of the authority for the autonomy's council to be set up in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Until now, the Egyptian position on this has been that the agreement on autonomy should in itself be the source of its authority. Israel's stand, on the other hand, is that the military government would be the source. The Americans, for their part, appear to favor the Egyptian stand rather than the Israeli.

According to the Cairo briefing, As-Sadat is urging President Jimmy Carter to convene another Camp David-style summit conference in the near future. However, my sources are doubtful about this happening at an early date for two reasons: One is Israel's probably having reservations about the mandate idea as it stands, and the other that President Carter, conscious of his bid for reelection, would not wish to risk a summit unless and until he is reasonably certain of a successful outcome. Therefore, they believe that a lot depends on the progress made at the next session of the ministerial plenary on autonomy to be held somewhere in Europe at the end of this month.

The sources also note that good progress on the technical level is being made in the autonomy working groups. Therefore, they see the summit as a form of last resort to be held either if all else fails or, more likely, if all the mechanics of autonomy are more or less agreed upon and Begin, As-Sadat and Carter would then have to dot the i's and cross the t's on a modified version of the Egyptian president's latest venture into pragmatic diplomacy.

MAJOR HADDAD CALLS U.S. ARMS BAN 'SHOCKING STUPIDITY'

TA151101 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Feb 80 pp 13, 32 TA

[Interview with Maj Sa'd Haddad, commander of the Christian militia in Marj Uyun, by Menahem Rahat: "The United States Forbids Israel to Supply the Militia With Weapons it Manufactures--And Not Just U.S. Weapons"--dated February]

[Excerpt] Haddad directs half of his anger at the Syrians, who, in his view, are heating up the area. Even when they declare their intention of evacuating areas of Lebanon, they intend to transfer them to PLO control. Haddad also expresses great anger with the U.S. Government, "which is behaving with shocking stupidity," according to him. "The Americans do not understand the situation. They must change their current policy--and begin to help us, because we, after all, are Lebanon's loyal citizens, and not the 'puppet government' sitting in Beirut, which is under the rule of the Syrians who have in fact conquered all of Lebanon apart from our southern strip."

He, therefore, demands that the Americans pressure Syria to take their hands off Lebanon, recognize the inhabitants of the enclave as the genuine citizens of Lebanon and aid them accordingly. "Instead of giving Sarkis millions of dollars, most os which goes to the leftist forces in the country, they should transfer this aid to us, because we are the pure Lebanese element in this country."

When he was asked what else he would like to propose if the Americans would only free themselves to listen to his wishes, he said: "They should help us and remain the forces working for the return of calm to Lebanon and the expulsion of foreigners. If they only wanted Lebanon's independence, they should have given Israel a 'green light' to help us with U.S. arms, as well. Instead the United States is now forbidding Israel to supply us with U.S.-made weapons. I know that at least 90 percent of the American people are interested in our welfare, and their hearts are with us. But the U.S. Government is working against us--and not from practical considerations--but because of oil interests. They do not want the Muslim world to rebel against them during this energy crisis. I know that the people in the United States are keeping their fingers crossed for us. Every week I get dozens of letters of support and encouragement from U.S. citizens who show sympathy for our struggle."

Haddad also knows that he cannot now rely on the aid of his brothers in the north. "Because they are involved in their own problems, and they are finding it difficult to look after themselves. I am in constant contact with them and I know that their troubles are not light either. Luckily for us, Israel is beside us, and it is the only one in the whole world that is prepared to aid us. We thank it for this wholeheartedly and we will never forget the help given by our good neighbor in our time of trouble.

"The problem is that, with all of Israel's help, we still need money and arms to end this unstable situation once and for all. We have the power to do this, but we need aid. After all, what am I asking from Israel? I am not asking Israel to conquer Lebanon or its southern portion. We are only asking for its help so that we will be able to help ourselves."

FORCEFUL REACTION PROMISED IF SYRIANS ACT

TA171112 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Substantive disagreements have arisen recently between Israel and the United States over the latest Syrian moves in Lebanon and Damascus' intentions. U.S. representatives are inclined to accept the version that it is the Syrians who fear an Israeli offensive and that Gromyko's visit in Syria was apparently intended to calm Damascus and promise it help in case Israel uses its political isolation and attacks it.

Israel absolutely rejects this version and maintains that the Syrian moves are not the result of an intentional Israeli threat at all. Therefore, Israel has warned that if the Syrians cause a conflagration--either directly or indirectly--the IDF will react forcefully.

The disagreements arose in talks between Israeli and U.S. analysts who cover events in Lebanon and Syria. After the initial reports of Syrian Army movements to the south of Al-Biq'a, the Americans claimed that these movements were apparently the result of Syrian fears following statements by the prime minister and a senior IDF officer that Damascus was planning a war against Israel. The Israeli analysts had to convince the Americans that Israel had not taken any measures that could be interpreted as a threat by the Syrians.

Despite this the Americans still claim that the Syrians are not preparing for an offensive and are afraid of an Israeli attack. And that this is one of the major reasons for their new deployment in Lebanon. They explain Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's visit to Damascus as an attempt to dissipate Syrian fears of Israel. They do not accept the contention that the Russians are now looking for a new focus of tension and that the Russians will be doubly careful now not to create tension in a new region especially because of their invasion of Afghanistan.

There is also disagreement over Major Haddad's intentions and the behavior of his forces. The Americans say that the Lebanese villages in the enclave are being attacked but that, judging by UNIFIL reports, Haddad's forces are reacting with greater force than the terrorists. Israel has rejected these U.S. versions and notified the U.S. representatives that if the Syrians, with or without Soviet support, intend to heat up the border, Israel will react most firmly.

Syrians React to Normalization

TA180829 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[Text] The Syrians intend to heat up the situation in Lebanon, but not to cause a conflagration with Israel--this is one of the latest evaluations from Jerusalem. According to this evaluation, which is one of several, the Syrian activity is intended to create pressure on Israel and Egypt to mark the opening of both countries' embassies. However the United States does not interpret the Syrian Army movements as being intended to create a conflagration with Israel. The IDF continues to maintain close surveillance over the situation in Lebanon.

U.S. DELEGATION LEAVES; MCINTYRE COMMENTS

TA151323 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The American economic delegation headed by James McIntyre this morning left Israel for home. At the airport reporter Dan Eshel asked McIntyre if after the visit he believed Israel could make do with existing aid from the United States.

[Begin McIntyre recording] That's a premature type of judgement to make. I've been very pleased with the way the minister of finance has dealt forthrightly with the economic problems that he had seen as minister of finance. I have been very impressed with the candor in which he has discussed those, in which he has outlined his plan of action. I think it's bold and forthright action such as that that helps people like me in my understandings and my advice on what we can do. You know we have a very difficult economic situation in the United States, and the first-hand experience that I get--it's the first visit--such as this helps me in evaluating where to allocate our scarce resources. [end recording]

U.S. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY ARRIVES 18 FEB

TA180814 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Feb 80 TA

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Donald McHenry arrived in Israel this morning from Jordan via the Allenby Bridge. He told our correspondent, Jerry Cheslow, that he discussed Middle East and international affairs in the Arab countries he visited. Among other things, he discussed the problem of settlement with the regional leaders. The U.S. ambassador intends to raise this issue in his talks in Israel as well. He refused to elaborate on this subject.

Meets Begin; Peres Comments

TA181824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Feb 80 TA

[Text] U.S. UN Ambassador Donald McHenry had a series of meetings with Knesset Chairman and foreign minister-designate Yitzhaq Shamir, with opposition leader Shim'on Peres and, finally, with Prime Minister Menahem Begin. McHenry himself said very little and avoided making declarations to the media. Razi Barqay reports on McHenry's meetings today: [begin recording]

[Barqay] Ambassador McHenry spoke very little and refused to answer questions on statements he made in Egypt. In Cairo, he made remarks about a possible amendment of Resolution 242 and the settlements. However, here in Jerusalem, he made only general and noncommital statements after emerging from an hour-long meeting with the prime minister.

[McHenry--in English] My point of view, my objective, was accomplished--and that was to meet first-hand and to have an exchange on issues with which I carry a special responsibility as the U.S. representative to the United Nations. The conversation was comprehensive and useful. I found it...I hope it will be very productive in terms of improving and increasing my ability to understand the position of Israel.

[Barqay translates the above into Hebrew and continues] We heard more consistent remarks about the contents of the meetings from Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] The ambassador wanted to know what the Labor Party proposes in regard to continuing the peace negotiations. He asked me what the results would be if the negotiations collapsed and what were the alternatives.

[Barqay] In your remarks to the ambassador did you criticize certain U.S. moves in the Middle East?

[Peres] Yes, I told him that, in my opinion, the United States has not worked enough on the Jordanian option. I think that, as far as the United States is concerned, King Husayn has been neglected. The United States should have done more in that respect than it actually did. Second, I think that the United States should now increase its efforts in order to begin solving the problem, first and foremost, in Gaza.

[Barqay] We heard that the prime minister explained to the guest Israel's positions on the PLO issue. The issue of the settlements, Menahem Begin said, is a first-class security requirement and Resolution 242 cannot be amended without affecting the Camp David accords.

McHenry is scheduled to meet Judaea and Samaria Arabs tomorrow. [end recording]

JERUSALEM CRITICIZES U.S. POSITION IN AUTONOMY TALKS

TA181014 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By Daniyel Bloch]

[Text] Yesterday severe criticism was leveled in Jerusalem at the U.S. position in the deliberations of the autonomy working groups. Interior Ministry Director General Hayim Kubersky, who heads the Israeli working group, complained that the Americans had behaved worse than the Egyptians in an attempt to put pressure on Israel.

It has also been reported that the Egyptians agreed to a practical discussion of the catalog [last word in English] of powers to be given to the autonomy institutions. The very fact of the agreement is the main progress in the talks, which are to be renewed today in the Laromme Hotel, Tel Aviv.

DISPLEASURE NOTED WITH U.S. MILITARY AID TO EGYPT

TA180807 Jerusalem POST in English 18 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman, POST military correspondent]

[Excerpt] Reports from the United States that Egypt will be receiving between $4 billion and $6 billion in military aid, including advanced F-15 warplanes, over the next five to eight years--subject to congressional approval--have not been received kindly in Jerusalem.

Though the reports still have to be confirmed, and though officials refuse to comment for the record, the consensus seems to be that the Americans would be stepping up the arms race in the Middle East, and even possibly undermining the peace process between Israel and Egypt, if they went through with the deal.

A senior defense source told the Jerusalem POST that Israel would prefer not to ask the United States for more aid in response to this latest development. Israel would prefer a reduction in U.S. arms to Egypt, he said.

The POST has learned that Israel has not yet used its option for an additional $200 million loan at 12.5 percent interest, which was offered to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman during his trip to Washington late last year. "In addition to taking, one has to be able to pay back, and we feel that we have reached our limits," the senior source said. Israeli comments on Egypt's acquisition programs have already been scored by Defense Minister Kamal Hassan 'Ali, who told a press conference in Cairo last week that "the Israelis should mind their own business." The lack of a formal response in this case is more an effort to avoid strain with the Egyptians than consideration for the American position at this time. But the feeling in Israel is that the U.S. aid to Egypt is totally out of proportion to any potential threat that country faces.

Weizman on Differences of Opinion

TA181047 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Feb 80 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Excerpt] A special loan of $200 million obtained by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman on his latest mission to the United States is not being used by Israel, and, at this point, there is no intention of using it.

U.S. elements expressed surprise last night at Israeli claims that the United States was increasing military aid to Egypt. They pointed out that Israel was not taking advantage of the loan obtained while Mr Weizman was on a special mission to the United States. The same elements pointed out yesterday that Washington was firm in its intention to expand military aid to Egypt. This aid would also include such sophisticated equipment as F-15's and other aircraft. The same elements said that they understood the "Israeli concern" because they had to examine the military balance between the two countries very carefully. However, they commented, Israel was not taking advantage of all the financial aid it had been given by the United States as a loan.

The remarks were made last night at a cocktail party given by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori for the U.S. assistant secretary of state for security aid, [State Department counselor] Mr Matthew Nimetz. The U.S. team, headed by Mr Nimetz, held discussions with the top levels of the Defense Ministry, and it appears that there were severe differences of opinion during the last discussion. This was given expression last night in the defense minister's welcoming remarks at the reception. Mr Weizman said, among other things: "We had some dogfights, and afterward both sides landed safely." According to one of the elements, the differences of opinion involved different strategic views of moves in the region. Defense establishment and Foreign Ministry elements in Jerusalem pointed out that Israel cannot sharply object to U.S. military aid to Egypt. "Both countries are now in a state of peace. Because of this there is great sensitivity on the matter," an Israeli element said.

'POLITICAL SOURCES' SEE NO CRISIS IN U.S. RELATIONS

TA181031 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By Daniyel Bloch]

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem believe that Israeli-U.S. relations are stable and have not worsened. The settlements issue is not creating additional difficulties in the relations, and the U.S. position is influenced more by the speed of the political negotiations and by its problems with the Muslim world.

The administration's reaction to the matter of Hebron sprang from the special Muslim sensitivity concerning this town, which is sacred to them. So far the administration has not threatened to cut aid to Israel because of the settlements. The sources pointed out that there are no grounds for the exaggeration that the situation is serious. The U.S. Government is consistent in its opposition to the settlements and to Israel's policy concerning its permanent borders, and there has been no worsening recently, either in statements or in practical steps.

The sources also think that there are no grounds for exaggerating the scale of the U.S. aid to Egypt. Even after all of Egypt's latest requests have been approved, it is getting less than Israel. All the aid to Egypt is being given as a loan, not even part of it is a grant. It is also known in Jerusalem that the administration does not intend to sell F-16's to Egypt now.

In the sources' opinion, Israel should show caution and restraint in its reactions to the U.S. positions and the decisions on settlement affairs should be made far more discreetly.

AMBASSADOR 'EVRON DISCUSSES U.S. RELATIONS WITH MINISTERS

TA171411 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Feb 80 TA

[Text] At ministerial consultations in Jerusalem our ambassador to Washington, Efrayim 'Evron, reviewed our relations with the United States. Among other things, the ambassador levelled criticism at Israelis who go on official missions to the United States and speak against the government policy on the settlements issue. Regarding this Ari'el Sharon asked whether Israel's authorized ambassadors and representatives explain our position positively or with a tone of apology. The prime minister said that problems arising from time to time in our relations with the United States do not spring solely from the matter of the settlements, but also from the difficulties in the autonomy negotiations and the problem of Jerusalem.

WEST BANK MAYORS AGREE TO MEET U.S. ENVOY MCHENRY

TA180801 Jerusalem POST in English 18 Feb 80 p 2 TA

[By Ian Black]

[Excerpt] Several prominent West Bank leaders are expected to meet with America's UN Ambassador Donald McHenry in Jerusalem tomorrow. They are willing to meet him because, unlike other recent U.S. visitors, he is not negotiating over the autonomy scheme.

One leading figure invited to meet McHenry, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, confirmed yesterday that he would have no objections to talking to the U.S. ambassador.

McHenry, who succeeded the controversial Andrew Young, is currently on a seven-nation Middle East tour. He is due to arrive in Israel from Jordan this morning.

In agreeing to talk to McHenry, West Bankers have overcome their frequent objections to meeting with Americans. Arab political sources commented yesterday that McHenry was not anti-Palestinian, and had voted for several anti-Israel resolutions at the UN, including last year's planned expulsion of Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah.

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL RADIO CITES WASHINGTON POST ON ARMS TO AFGHAN GROUPS

GF161616 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 16 Feb 80 GF

[Text] The United States of America and its allies are assisting (?outcast) mercenaries and sending them to the Afghan soil to engage in fighting against the lawful government in Afghanistan. The establishment of the so-called Committee for Assistance of Afghan Refugees has recently been announced in Washington. This committee is clearly instigated by American special services which aim at assisting the enemies of Afghanistan.

The Washington POST in a recent issue writes that the United States is secretly supplying arms to antiprogressive elements in Afghanistan. These arms and communications equipment are placed at the disposal of (?trained) elements by the CIA agents. The daily adds the special committees of the United States Congress which are responsible for supervision of the supply of arms are informed (?of) these activities through the State Department and the CIA.

Washington POST states that the supply of arms by U.S. to the antiprogressive and anti-socialist elements in Afghanistan is in addition to the assistance already rendered.

BAKHTAR REJECTS REPORTS OF FIGHTING AT BASE NEAR KABUL

LD162246 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY once again rejects the false reports of the imperialist propaganda machine: The propaganda machine of the imperialists have once again (?engaged in propaganda). AFP, as well as the BBC, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Radio Pakistan and other imperialist media and their (?followers) have reported with great glee that fighting took place at one of the military bases near Kabul. Explosions reportedly were heard from there, and the base was even said to have been bombed by the air force. They attributed this false report and other lies to diplomatic sources.

(?First we ask) what is the purpose of (?false reports)? The enemies of our country and of our revolution, who are becoming weaker day by day and are faced with the (?lack of support), are afflicted with lies and empty thoughts. They, who have nothing else to say about us, have reverted to lies to maintain their and their servants morale and are engaging themselves with [word indistinct] thoughts. But reality and the facts of life are far removed from the world of these thoughts. Let our enemies content themselves with empty thoughts.

BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY rejects these obvious lies, for there is not one iota of truth in these imperialist-manufactured stories. We alert out countrymen to the false and provocative imperialist propaganda machine so that they can recognize the real essence of this false demoniac propaganda.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE MEETS WITH OFFICIALS

LD162254 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] Professor [name indistinct], member of Amnesty International, in a meeting that was specially arranged at Kabul University, this afternoon talked about the aims of that organization and the purpose of his visit to Afghanistan.

He said: We are glad to have had the opportunity of meeting with the general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA, Babrak Karmal, the ministers of foreign affairs, justice and the interior and exchanged views with them.

In addition we met with whomever we wished and we outlined the topics of mutual interest. Such an opportunity was not available to the delegation of Amnesty International which visited Afghanistan last year.

Also, regarding the prisoners who were released after the new phase of the Sawr Revolution, we met face to face with two or three prisoners that are imprisoned at Pul-e Charkhi and questioned them. He said: From our visit to Pul-e Charkhi Prison and its empty caves, which were really shocking, we came to the conclusion that many people had been physically tortured during the rule of Hafizollah Amin and we were disturbed. In conclusion he said: While we are sharing with you this shocking memory, you [as heard] have been assured that in the future such inhuman encounters will not take place.

BABRAK KARMAL RECEIVES PFLP DELEGATION 15 FEB

GF161800 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 80 GF

[Text] Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, Revolutionary Council chairman and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], received a delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] at Revolutionary Council headquarters at 1645 yesterday. The delegation includes Ghassan Ahmad, member of the PFLP International Relations Department; the representative of (BLUTAN) magazine and AL-HADAF, organ of the PFLP; AL-HADAF correspondent Mahmud Salim; and Samir George, PFLP member.

During the meeting Babrak Karmal discussed the national and democratic revolution in Afghanistan. He exposed the dangerous schemes of the central intelligence service of U.S. imperialism against the region's broad masses, plots made in alliance with the grandiose Chinese, reactionaries of the area and Arab reactionaries, which have been (?defeated).

Babrak Karmal said: The friendship among Afghanistan, the USSR and India is important support for peace and stability in the area. The false propaganda and lies of imperialist media can never make these ties of friendship deviate from their true course.

Babrak Karmal added: It is very important that our friends in the Palestinian people's heroic resistance and among the Arab masses realize this fact. There is not a single realistic and honest Muslim anywhere in the world who can believe that U.S. imperialism, in its alliance with Zionism, is defending the Muslims of the world through Muslims who are in fact servants of imperialism. No Muslim can raise his voice against the Muslim Afghan people in the so-called Islamic Conference.

Speaking about the formation of the motherland's National Front, Babrak Karmal said: This is not mere propaganda but action rooted in the national conditions of our homeland. Regrettably, the provocative activities of Hafizollah Amin trampled upon this important (?objective). Today, it has been revived by the new phase of the Sawr Revolution.

Babrak Karmal reaffirmed revolutionary Afghanistan's anti-imperialist and anticolonialist stand in the face of its enemies and the enemies of the Arabs in the struggle against fascism, Zionism, racism and apartheid.

In conclusion Babrak Karmal praised the fraternal sentiments and solidarity of the progressive Arab and Palestinian forces, including the PFLP.

The PFLP delegation promised to clarify the ambiguities that exist in the minds of Arabs regarding the revolutionary events in Afghanistan.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETS UNDER KARMAL 16 FEB

GF171635 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 17 Feb 80 GF

[Text] The Council of Ministers met under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, at the Revolutionary Council headquarters from 5 to 8 p.m. last night, and while discussing a series of proposals made by various ministries and government departments, approved the following:

At the proposal of the Ministry of Planning the agreement for credit of $3.55 million offered from several [word indistinct] for the construction of the [name indistinct] road in (?Helmand) valley; similarly, the economic and technical cooperation agreement between Afghanistan and the German Democratic Republic concerning a $(920) million loan to finance the telecommunication and electricity power project.

On the basis of the proposal of the Ministry of Commerce, the Council of Ministers approved the following: A protocol for the exchange of goods during 1980 together with a letter of $5 million loan for the consumer goods and the letter of specification of the items included in the 10 million rubles of grant-in-aid of the Soviet Union signed as previously, as well as the agreement for the export of gas and oil products; the agreement for the [words indistinct] projects in the Soviet Union at a cost of over $4.3 million which is being financed in the ordinary budget as proposed by the Ministry of Mines and Industry. In addition it was decided that Afghan and Soviet delegations may be exchanged to visit the mines (?and installations) in the two countries and exchange their views and experiments. The Council of Ministers decided that the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform may propose 5.5 million [words indistinct] project from the Soviet Union.

Further Details

LD180002 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the Council of Ministers held a meeting yesterday which lasted from 1700 to 2000 at the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

The Council of Ministers discussed a number of proposals by the ministries and government departments and decisions on the following topics were made:

On the basis of the proposal of the Ministry of Planning, the agreement for the credit of $3.55 million [words indistinct], which was previously signed, has been approved. Similarly, technical and economic cooperation between the DRA and the GDR regarding the [words indistinct] loan for the (?extension) of communications projects and electrical energy, signed some time ago, have been approved.

The Council of Ministers, on the basis of the separate proposal of the Ministry of Commerce, approved the following:

1. The protocol for the exchange of goods for 1980, with the $5-million consumption loan which will be made effective within the R10 million of grants-in-aid from the USSR, which has already been signed together with contracts related to [word indistinct] the production of petroleum products.

2. The exemption of [words indistinct] traders' goods and those who own these goods in the ports [word indistinct] of Shair Khan, Hayratan and Torghundi for the last 3 months of (?1980).

3. The exemption from customs duties of equipment for Jarqoduq [gas plant in northeast Afghanistan] in the port of Hayratan.

At yesterday's meeting of the Council of Ministers, in accordance with the Ministry of Transport and Tourism, the Afghan International Transport Company has been exempted from customs duties. Instructions were issued that the tourist organization, as before, should carry on its work and that 2 years from now it should be transformed into a [word indistinct].

The contract for purchase of equipment for the Jarqoduq project from the USSR at a cost of $5.319 million will be paid from the normal budget. This was proposed by the Ministry of Mines and Industries and was approved. It was also added that the Afghan and Soviet delegations should exchange views on visiting the two countries' mining plant establishments.

The Council of Ministers decided that the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform should purchase from the USSR 5.5 million bottles necessary [words indistinct] for olive conservation, for the development project of Nangarhar Valley.

With the aim of distributing pure water to the people of Khirkhana in Kabul, the old city and other areas which lack pure water, the Council of Ministers instructed the Ministry of Public Works to transfer to Kabul municipality the (?conservation) of water and its administrative cost.

[Word indistinct] owing to the proposal of the Ministry of Training and Education, the Ministry of Culture and Information was instructed that in recording and broadcasting educational radio and television programs it should cooperate with the Ministry of Training and Education.

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON PROPERTY CONFISCATED UNDER AMIN

LD180003 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Following the meeting of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Finance of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] was instructed to prepare an outline report of confiscated goods and property. A result of this, the following statement has been issued by the DRA Government:

Noble countrymen, the DRA Government, on the basis of all the objectives of the Sawr Revolution, the accomplishment of the revolutionary duties of the DRA and the struggle in the extensive battle by the various cells against all kinds of difficulties and irregularities and social, economic and political disorders for the creation of congenial conditions for [word indistinct] the security of all the toilers of Afghanistan, has emerged from the mass of difficulties.

Only a few steps were taken when the corrupt souls in the (?bodies) of people like Amin, with devilish cunning, dragged this great human struggle into suspicion and inequality. [Passage indistinct] its irregularities in the government financial departments and the country's social conditions amounted to nothing more than a craving for killing flies [as heard].

The hated Amin used to make deceptive noises to trick the public, dishonest revolutionary [word indistinct] and false love of the people so that [word indistinct] our country's masses. He used to hide his (?true feature) under the mask of revolution and pleasing words. In fact, he only protected himself and his plundering (?group), who portrayed themselves as the protectors of the people. But the millions-strong masses of our toilers recognized all his (?dishonest) objectives and saw them as mere plunderers. Now, as a result of investigations, we can remove the veil from their crimes, plunderings and [word indistinct]. Amin, this extorter of American imperialism, and those who shared in the crimes with him must account for their deeds to the freedom-loving workers.

Documents reveal that the plunderer Amin, in the armed forces, the ministries of interior and [word indistinct], used to sign and issue instructions to all security organs and the armed forces of the DRA so that they were required to send confiscated goods, [word indistinct], smuggled items and so forth in compliance with legal proceedings to the relevant authorities. But when these authorities applied for documentation on these officially confiscated items, elements connected with the band of Amin used to say to them in reply: While you have been officially informed in writing we have been told verbally that these goods should be taken by us directly to the capital.

One proven example of such misappropriation was the embezzlement of confiscated goods worth 100 million afghanis, 11 tons of opium which were entered in the Qandahar custom house, concerning which Sahibjon Sahrai, the then minister of frontier affairs, addressed the question of Qandahar custom [words indistinct]. This is (?part) of the crime of Amin and his plundering bands.

With the success of the new phase of the Sawr Revolution which removed the plunderers and criminals from our [words indistinct] oppressed masses, a number of our compatriots are expecting their national and democratic government to return their confiscated and plundered properties.

Oppressed countrymen, you are yourselves witness to the (?oppression) of Amin, with your dear ones, brothers, fathers, sisters, friends and tribesmen and relatives lost due to the butchery of Amin and his criminal band. Do you know that from among all your property and goods not an ounce remains? With the cooperation of the (?band) directly under Asadollah Amin, nephew of the bloodthirsty Anin who headed their spying cells, which were spread throughout Kabul and the provinces, these goods were nationalized and, without taking into consideration all the talk about legality and contrary to the laws and regulations concerning accountability in the country, they were put on sale and sold. The proceeds, instead of being put into the government budget, were put into their own pockets and into the pockets of those who shared the crime with them.

Another document exposing the plunderer Amin and his band and uncovering their crimes is in the Government Information Office. This document attests the fact that part of the sale price of goods in excess of about 25 million afghanis was transferred on the instructions of Amin to his personal account in the National Bank.

Other documents reveal the plunder of Amin and his looting band; for example the bank a account at the National Bank in the name of Hafizollah Amin under account number 17423. In this account, where the sum of 114,336,174 afghanis was kept, [words indistinct] 74,356,174 afghanis remain. This itself is a document which shows the plundering of Amin and his looting band, stealing from the national treasury and (?paid) as bribes to his plundering bands. These sums do not include $3 million dollars which were taken from the state budget and put in the bank under his own name.

Noble countrymen, these sums are all separate from those that were plundered from the national budget and spent with his band or sent to foreign banks. The total sum exceeds hundreds of millions and approaches billions.

The DRA Government, in keeping with its promises and the grave and historic responsibilities which it has accepted in respect of the country's freedom-loving people, regards it as its patriotic duty to the oppressed countrymen whose property and goods were plundered to return whatever is entered in the records of DRA financial departments in accordance with the historic speech of 28 December by Babrak Karmal, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA, according to regulations which will be announced to the respected countrymen at a later date.

For the accomplishment of this humane and revolutionary wish, the DRA Government points out the following:

Those countrymen whose properties have been confiscated contrary to the revolutionary objectives are asked to come in person, or their legal heir is asked to come with the documents attesting to their ownership, to the Office of Nationalized Properties, next to the Ministry of Planning in Malik Azghar crossroads in the capital or, in the provinces, to the offices of the tax commissioners.

Thus, all the documents pertaining to movable and immovable government property acquired contrary to the legal procedures should be presented to the above address within 20 days from the issue of this announcement. Otherwise, these people will have to follow judicial procedures.

We also ask our noble countrymen to submit the names of those who hold the property of others to the above address not to withhold their patriotic assistance. It is hoped this help will be free from prejudice and if some take advantage of the situation, they will undoubtedly be dealt with according to the law.

BAKHTAR COMMENTARY CRITICIZES CAIRO'S AL-AHRAM

LD181810 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY commentary on a report in the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM]

[Excerpts] International imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism and its servants, does not consider it sufficient just to send and arm antirevolutionary, destructive and other reactionary elements into the territory of Afghanistan; the imperialists are using every means available to them to flagrantly continue their unwarranted activities against revolutionary Afghanistan. An example of such unwarranted actions is a report in yesterday's issue of the Cairo AL-AHRAM. This newspaper reported that a number of PDRY soldiers had been sent to help the DRA.

BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY, while refuting AL-AHRAM, which is connected to As-Sadat, adds that Egypt, in its undeclared was against Afghanistan, and by issuing such lies, is interfering in the internal affairs of our country. Our people know well what is hidden behind these Egyptian claims. Egypt wants to use such lies at the expense of Egyptian toilers to (?strengthen) its ties with the United States and proclaim itself defender of the Muslim countries. It is therefore engaging in conspiracies against the PDRY. While we have good relations with our Yemeni brothers and say that friendship between our countries is firmly established, we say that at present the Afghan nation can, with the help of our Soviet friends, resolutely rebuff imperialism. [Words indistinct] and our people answer loudly: Hands off the internal affairs of Afghanistan [words indistinct].

KARMAL THANKS KIM IL-SONG FOR CONGRATULATIONS

LD162226 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry reports that Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], has sent a message to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Korean Workers Party and president of the DPRK, sincerely thanking him for his message to Karmal on his election as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and the prime minister of the DRA. In his message Karmal expressed the hope that friendship and cooperation between the people of the two countries in their struggle against imperialism and international reaction will develop even further. This message was delivered today by the chief of protocol of the Foreign Ministry of the DRA to the DPRK ambassador in Kabul.

KARMAL GREETS POLAND'S EDWARD GIEREK ON REELECTION

LD180020 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry reports that Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, has sent the following telegram to Warsaw on the occasion of the election of His Excellency Edward Gierek as the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party [PZPR]:

Respected Comrade, I am glad to convey to you and the PZPR Central Committee most warm and sincere greetings on my own behalf and on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee on your election as the first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee. I am glad that under your guidance friendly relations, fraternal contacts and cooperation between our peoples and parties will develop to the advantage of both our countries and to the benefit of peace in the world.

Dear Comrade, I hope you will accept our best wishes for your health and great success in carrying out your important task and the advancement (?of our two countries).

REBEL LEADER ON UNIFICATION OF OPPOSITION GROUPS

LD151151 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT AL-USBU'IYAH in Arabic 10 Feb 80 pp 1-2 LD

[Hasan Luqays report]

[Excerpts] Peshawar--"We are preparing for a large-scale push at the beginning of spring in a concentrated offensive which will be the decisive blow that will make the Soviet invaders end their attempt to remain in our country." The speaker is Dr Burhan ad-Din Rabbani, professor of Islamic law and sociology at Kabul University and spokesman for the six struggling Islamic organizations which have merged into one front.

Dr Rabbani added: The Soviet Union is a colonial country. Any colonial state, if left alone, will not get out of your country. The Soviets have expansionist ambitions in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf, particularly in the oilfields. They have been entertaining such dreams for a very long time, but our struggle and our strugglers' willpower will force them to withdraw. The next step will be the formation in the liberated Afghan territories of a government that will embrace all the political organizations and form a unified military command.

The six organizations which Dr Rabbani represents are: the Islamic Revolutionary Movement led by Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi, the National Salvation Movement led by Sabghatullah Mujaddidi, the Islamic Party led by (Klidin Hikmatyar), the Islamic Party led by Mawlawi Muhammad Yunis Khalis, the National Islamic (?party) [Mahadha] led by Sayyid Ahmad Jilani and the Afghan Islamic Society led by Dr Rabbani.

Rabbani said: The idea of unifying the struggle among the fighting fronts has been our great wish and is necessitated by the present phase of our struggle against the Soviet invasion. We have made good progress in this field, and the six basic struggling organizations have merged into the "Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan." The purpose of this alliance is to create a unified political, military and informational front as a prelude to the establishment in the liberated Afghan areas of a government that will chart a single plan to expel the invaders. We are trying to make other groups join us. Our aim is to establish Islamic rule in Afghanistan after liberating all Afghan territory.

Rabbani added: During the present phase we are trying to form a consultative council from members of the organizations and certain men whose presence in the higher council is of interest to us. We will then work out basic policies and proceed on this basis to liberate the country.

The front which has been formed will have the task of planning for the struggle and establishing the foundations on which the future government will be set up in Afghanistan. This government will then work to build the country following liberation. We are in the process of ironing out our political and tribal differences.

On the division among the mojahedin fronts, Rabbani said: The fronts are not divided. The fight has been going on despite differences in the organizations' planning and organization. Joint action is being carried out in Afghanistan and on the fighting fronts. There is a basic plan for action against the agents in Kabul and against the Soviet invasion. The basic lines have been the same to everybody since the very first day.

All that has happened is that several organizations have been fighting according to plans drawn up by themselves; but there has been no war among the organizations to impede the struggle. Clashes have taken place and continue to take place, but they do not hinder the progress of the fighting. Such matters are natural, especially because we are in a state of revolution and violent action. It has been difficult to establish an alliance derived from the rank and file because the struggling rank and file are spread out inside Afghanistan and it is a difficult problem to ascertain their opinion on every step.

Regarding the means the mojahedin are using in their fight, especially as they are confronting a big power, Rabbani said: there is no doubt that we need various kinds of modern weapons and sufficient ammunition of the kind required by a war like the war we are waging. It is true that our weapons are very primitive and we have little ammunition, but the Soviets have forgotten our history in confronting all invaders and our unshaken belief in Islam and in defending it--a belief which is stronger than their planes and heavy tanks. The people of Afghanistan, all 17 million of them, are participating with us in the fight.

Talking about the sides or the states which are rendering aid and whether there is any intention of requesting aid from the United States, Rabbani said: We have no intention of contacting the Americans. As a first step, we want weapons and aid from the Islamic states. We believe we should not make Afghanistan a field for conflict among the major powers. If the Islamic states extend aid to us, that would be sufficient and we would be able to drive the Soviets out with that aid.

AFP: ROAD TRAFFIC REDUCED BETWEEN KABUL, PAKISTAN

BK171728 Hong Kong AFP in English 1726 GMT 17 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 17 Feb (AFP)--Guerrilla commando operations on roads linking Kabul and Pakistan as well as clashes between the rebels and Soviet-Afghan forces near Jalalabad in Afghanistan were believed to be responsible for the very reduced traffic noted here today.

In Peshawar, near the Pakistani-Afghan border, it was estimated that road traffic from Kabul via Jalalabad had been only about 20 per cent of normal for some time. Only a rare few trucks and private cars today passed the Torkham border checkpoint in both directions. Although the Kabul road apparently has not been actually cut, there were persistent rumors here that rebels were on and off establishing their own checkpoints.

Travelers here wishing to drive to Kabul were advised today they should rather take a plane, and the authorities were most parsimonious in granting visas.

AFP REPORTS SOVIET ADVISERS KILLED, TROOPS DESERT

BK180904 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 18 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 18 Feb (AFP)--Afghan army soldiers killed their Soviet military advisers and deserted last week from their posts in the town of Alishang in Afghanistan's Laghman Province north of Jalalabad, rebel sources here said today. They said that when mojahedin Moslem guerrillas attacked Alishang on Thursday, soldiers guarding the town deserted and joined forces with the rebels, bringing over large amounts of arms and ammunition including tanks and other armoured vehicles.

Moslem fighters have besieged Laghman's provincial capital, Mehtar Lam, and in nearby Jalalabad clashes have continued for several days between Afghan guerrillas and Soviet-Afghan troops, the same sources said.

Afghan rebel groups based here claimed their men were also continuing to harass Soviet troops on Afghanistan's key roads. They were said to have seized control of roads linking the capital Kabul with Jalalabad near the Pakistani border, Herat on the Iranian border, and Mazar-e Sharif on the Soviet border.

The Soviets were therefore forced to fly in supplies for their forces to Kandahar air base in the south where anti-Soviet feeling among the population was rising, the rebels claimed. They said a rally in protest against the Soviet presence and against the Moscow-installed President Babrak Karmal was staged in Kandahar on Thursday to the cries of "Death to the Russians, Death to Karmal, Allah Is Great."

Wounded Flown to GDR

TA181527 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Feb 80 TA

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] Reports about the fighting in Afghanistan say a group of Afghan soldiers killed their Soviet advisers last week and joined the rebels opposing the big Soviet military presence in the country. There has been no independent confirmation of the report, which has come from Afghan rebel sources.

Meanwhile, 10 Afghan soldiers wounded in the fighting have been flown to East Germany for medical treatment. They arrived on a plane returning from a mission to deliver supplies to Afghanistan. This report from our Berlin correspondent Mark Brain:

[Begin Brain recording] East Germany has been one of Moscow's few unflinching supporters over the intervention in Afghanistan, and the arrival of wounded fighters for treatment in East Berlin is evidence of the kind of logistical support it is giving. News that the 10 had arrived was contained in a longer report on a weekend aid flight to Kabul which delivered scientific and popular literature, blood plasma, medicine and blankets--a typical shopping list for an East German aid delivery. The pattern is similar to East German support last autumn for the new left-wing government in Nicaragua: aid deliveries on the outward flight, wounded guerrillas--in Afghanistan's case government soldiers--brought back for treatment on the return.

Last year, over a hundred left-wing guerrillas from the Third World were treated in East German hospitals. The difference this time is in the official account of the action. The Nicaraguans arrived in East Berlin to a blaze of publicity, with names, family histories and interviews with individual guerrillas, playing on genuine sympathy in East Germany for the Sandinistic cause. In Afghanistan's case, the authorities know that many East Germans are worried about the Soviet intervention, and by playing down the arrival of the injured men, they sought to avoid reopening any debate. East German media reporting on Afghanistan has markedly toned down its enthusiasm since the first days after the invasion and, instead, the emphasis now--as in the Soviet media--is on the need to continue detente in Europe, an approach underlined by a new East German readiness to negotiate with West Germany on a number of major economic projects. [end recording]

ANKARA RADIO REPORTS FIGHTING IN VARIOUS AREAS

TA181438 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1400 GMT 18 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Intensified fighting is reported in various parts of Jalalabad, Badakhshan, Takhar, (Kon Arha) and Baghlan in Afghanistan between resistance forces on the one hand and Afghan troops of the Babrak Karmal administration and occupying Soviet troops on the other. It has been announced that the Afghan resistance forces killed 37 persons belonging to Karmal's party in the city of Baghlan and burned some government offices there. A spokesman for the Afghan resistance forces said that the town of Alishang in Laghman province was taken over and that the town of Mehtar Lam was surrounded.

AFP REPORTS NO SIGN OF SOVIET WITHDRAWAL

BK190958 Hong Kong AFP in English 0939 GMT 19 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 19 Feb (AFP)--Soviet troops in Afghanistan showed no signs of preparing to withdraw today, with less than 24 hours to go before the deadline set by the United States for its participation in the Moscow Olympic games, diplomatic sources here said.

The sources said reports from Kabul contained nothing to suggest even a "token" pullout might be under way by the Soviets, who are estimated to number nearly 100,000 following the massive military intervention in December.

One month ago, U.S. President Jimmy Carter had called for the Moscow Olympics to be moved, cancelled or postponed if Soviet forces were still in Afghanistan on Feb 20.

Other reports from Kabul meanwhile indicated that on the contrary, there had been major movements of troops and armor in the vicinity of Kabul yesterday, plus signs of more men being poured in, possibly to shore up Soviet control of Kabul, said to be shaky.

The movements were said to have ground to a halt this morning because of a heavy snowfall that crippled the city, closing offices and halting traffic.

INDIA

PRESIDENT'S RULE PROCLAIMED IN NINE STATES

BK181002 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Nine non-Congress-I ruled states were brought under president's rule through a proclamation issued late last night. The states are: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. The assemblies in these states were also dissolved. A presidental proclamation and Article 356 of the Constitution was issued after an hour-long meeting of the union cabinet.

Immediately after the meeting the home minister, Mr Zail Singh, called on the president, Mr Sanjiva Reddy, and apprised him of the cabinet decision to dissolve the state assemblies as they no longer reflected the will of the people.

Of the state governments dismissed, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa were headed by Lok Dal chief ministers; Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat were under the Janata Party rule; in Maharashtra, the Progressive Democratic Front was in power; Tamil Nadu was headed by the Anna-DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] chief minister; and Punjab by the Akali Dal. The Congress-I recorded resounding victories in all these states in the January Lok Sabha poll.

The All India Radio correspondent says: The Janata government, too, had taken a similar step in the wake of its massive victory in the 1977 Lok Sabha poll. The nine states ruled by the Congress were dismissed in April 1977 on the same ground and the assmblies dessolved. These states were: Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa. The Supreme Court had then upheld the government decision, rejecting Congress petition challenging the dissolution move.

The opposition parties in some of the states have been sending memoranda and representations to the center asking for action against the state governments and their dismissal.

The chief ministers of the dismissed state governments and opposition leaders have criticized the center's decision to dissolve the nine state assemblies. The measure has, however, been welcomed by the Congress-I and DMK leaders. While the opposition parties have described the decision as a threat to democracy and federal (?structure), the Congress-I and DMK leaders have hailed it as a step in the right direction in view of the people's verdict in the Lok Sabha election.

The outgoing chief minister of Maharashtra, Mr Sarat Pawar, described the dissolution of the state assemblies as the second phase of the program to create instability in the country by a party which secured votes in the name of stability.

Mr Shekhawat of Rajasthan said this is a challenge to all democratic forces. The outgoing chief ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab have also criticized the center's action.

The Janata Party general secretary, Mr Surendra Mohan, said it was a misuse of authority.

According to the Lok Dal leader, Mr Biju Patnayek, the decision was not unexpected.

The CPI leader, Mr Bishwanath Mukherjee, said: Here is a clear proof of a drive to establish monopoly of power in the action taken by the center.

Welcoming the decision, the railway minister, Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, said the states were trying to create a situation making it impossible for the center to fulfill the promises made to the people.

The civil aviation minister and the Orissa Congress-I president, Mr J.B. Patnaik, felt the Orissa assembly should have been dissolved much earlier.

The Madhya Pradesh Congress-I vice president, Mr V.C. Sikhla, MP, said the decision would lead to the establishment of orderly governments.

The DMK president, Mr Karunanidhi, pointed out that the dissolution of the state assemblies was but a logical corollary to what happened in 1976-77. The decision, he said, is a binding one and has to be accepted by those who created a precedent in this regard.

GANDHI INTERVIEWED ON AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN

AU151445 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1227 GMT 15 Feb 80 AU

[Harry Sichrovsky report on interview with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in New Delhi, presumably during or shortly after Chancellor Kreisky's 28 Jan-1 Feb visit--with recorded excerpts from Indira Gandhi answers, beginning in English, fading into German translation]

[Text] My first question to the Indian prime minister concerns the Indian attitude on Afghanistan, which is often little understood or wrongly understood in Europe.

[Begin Gandhi recording] We see it as if Europe would bring its problems to other continents. They do not want a war in Europe; all right, so what do they do? They bring their rivalries to Asia. They do not care whether we are killed or our countries destroyed. Where was the Jewish problem? Did it ever have anything to do with the Arabs? There were never disputes between Arabs and Jews. The conflict was in the European countries--in Poland, Germany, Austria, Russia. Then all of a sudden Israel was created in a way that Europe washed its hands of it and now the problem is right amidst the Arabs and disturbs the entire region. The same is happening in Afghanistan, albeit not with Jews and Arabs, but with the rivalries of the big powers. We do not want this confrontation at our doorstep. They have revived the cold war, and we are very afraid that this might lead to a hot war. We want to prevent that. We are not interested in who is the culprit; we are interested in seeing that the situation is not aggravated and escalated. We are interested in seeing that this war is prevented in any way. [end recording]

But she surely does not agree that a government simply can occupy a country and bring a puppet regime with it?

[Begin Gandhi recording] Certainly not. But then has America not been interfering in other countries? Did your country protest when China invaded Vietnam? We said that we are against all foreign invasions, not only against the presence [of foreign troops] but against any interference. Perhaps your country is not, but when you consider the other big countries they are constantly interfering in Latin America, in Africa and in Asia. If one bloc interferes, the other reacts. [end recording]

Does Pakistan really represent a military threat to India?

[Begin Gandhi recording] With American bases there, and also as we are surrounded--just remember that we have a long border with China, which claims part of our territory; we have suffered Chinese aggression already once, and also from Pakistan--we feel encircled. [end recording]

AFP: GROMYKO CITED ON AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

BK160608 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 16 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 16 Feb (AFP)--India was likely to redouble her efforts to defuse the Afghan crisis with the United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan after the brief interval caused by the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, the English daily, INDIAN EXPRESS, reported today.

The paper's political commentator, Kuldip Nayar, who has just returned from visits to Islamabad and Kabul, said in a front-page article that Mr. Gromyko had indicated his country's willingness to withdraw troops provided "proper conditions" were created.

The main Soviet condition was said to be the stoppage of raids into Afghanistan from "bases" in Pakistan, the commentator said. He added that New Delhi, by approaching the three countries, wanted at least no further deterioration of the situation "because it was an open secret that there will be a spurt in hostilities once snow melts on mountains in Afghanistan in March or April."

According to Mr. Nayar, India has made it clear to Mr. Gromyko that it had not liked the entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan and it would like them to withdraw as soon as possible.

India, the commentator said, had a two-fold aim: To try to bring Pakistan and Afghanistan to the negotiating table and approach Washington not to inject arms into the region. Mr. Gromyko, he said, had agreed with India that the supply of arms to Pakistan "would further complicate the situation."

Referring to Mr. Gromyko's talks here, he said Moscow was also in favour of a regional approach to the crisis if it yielded results.

He added that Mr. Gromyko had informed India that "on an average 100 raids, big or small, took place daily (into Afghanistan) from where the insurgents operated and from where they got their training and weapons."

During the Soviet leader's discussions, Russia's warnings to Pakistan and "the role America is playing in the region" also cropped up, according to the article.

ISI REPORTS GROMYKO 12 FEB DELHI BANQUET SPEECH

BK181545 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1435 GMT 18 Feb 80 BK

[Speech by Soviet Foreign Minister A.A. Gromyko at dinner given in his honor by P.V. Narashimha Rao on 12 February in New Delhi]

[Text] Esteemed Mr Minister, dear Indian friends, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to express my gratitude for the hearty welcome given to us and for the kind words addressed by you, Mr Minister, to the Soviet Union.

The talks we have started today continue the established practice of Soviet-Indian political contacts. These contacts enable us to consider and to successfully solve matters of bilateral relations. They give the possibility to understand each other's stand more deeply, to outline the directions of our cooperation in international affairs for the benefit of peace.

The level of development of contacts between states in the sphere of politics is always the sure indicator of the relations between them in general. That is why we note with satisfaction, and I think you will agree with this, that political contacts doubtless play an important political role in the whole set of Soviet-Indian relations.

The character of Soviet-Indian cooperation in our times is precisely defined by the words of the general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the president of Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR L.I. Brezhnev: "Our friendship has been tempered in the flames of the Bhilai blast furnaces. It acquired a new content as a result of joint efforts of the Soviet Union and India on the international arena--efforts aimed at the triumph of peace, justice and freedom of peoples."

Great credit in this respect goes to L.I. Brezhnev and Prime Minister of India Mrs Indira Gandhi.

The present talks are being held at a time when the international situation has visibly become complicated and the role of detente is undergoing serious trials. The responsibility for this rests entirely with the forces of imperialism, first of all with certain circles of the United States which are possessed with the idea of military superiority, which would like to change in their favour the balance of forces in the world [and] revive the time of cold war. In other words, they would like to start speaking the language of diktat with the purpose to impose their will on other countries and peoples, to lay their hands on someone else's oil and on the whole, on the resources belonging to other countries.

To disguise their designs the authors of the Washington's such policy are trying to fan the fiction of the so-called Soviet threat which has happened many times before.

This device is the old stuff which smells of flake mothballs, but this fact does not embarrass them. Now they have chosen as the target of their attacks the Soviet action in support of the people of Afghanistan which defends its democratic achievements in the struggle against the aggression unleashed from outside. While doing this the imperialists are trying to present the matter in such a way as if this step of ours is the initial cause of those complications that have recently emerged in international affairs. This is an absurd and dishonourable version.

Organized by the forces of imperialism, aggression against Afghanistan was obviously needed by them to use it for just another blow against the world detente. They could not but know that Afghanistan would defend her independence with might and main and that the Soviet Union would respond to her request for help. The act of assistance to Afghanistan which fully corresponds to the treaty of friendship, good neighbourliness and cooperation between the USSR and the DRA and also to the UN Charter is not aimed against the adjacent countries, does not harm their interests and surely does not constitute any danger for the security and stability of this area of Asia and of the world at large.

When asked when and under which conditions the limited Soviet military contingents would be withdrawn from Afghanistan, L.I. Brezhnev has given an exhaustive answer in his recent interview to the correspondent of the newspaper PRAVDA. All other statement and guess work on this account mean deception of people which is being abundantly cooked in the Washington political kitchen, especially in connection with the events around Afghanistan.

The anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan camouflage of her politics was needed by Washington to cover the course of increasing international tension, of subversion of world detente and escalation of the arms race which has been pursued by her for a long time.

As far back as 2 years ago, the NATO countries had decided to sharply increase their military budgets. This was followed by a decision to deploy new American nuclear missile arms in Western Europe. Setting the fashion, the United States has made and is making unprecedented efforts to increase its military potential.

The same is the implication of the forming of the so-called "quick reaction corps" by Washington, which is destined for military interference into affairs of peoples in the different regions of the world.

And take such activities of the United States as its crude pressure on Iran to the shores of which an American naval armada has been sent, as U.S. military preparations on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean and the feverish search by Washington of places for the setting up of her new naval bases.

Similar to these activities are the schemes meant to convert Pakistan into a hotbed of tension, as a springboard for further escalation of aggression against Afghanistan.

Pakistan, if it goes along the same road in future, will get nothing good and will undermine its position as an independent state. Its interests would imply the strengthening of its independence and maintaining good friendly relations with all neighbouring countries.

The actions of those forces, which have unleashed the aggression against Afghanistan, can be qualified in no other way but as an immediate threat to the security and independence of the peoples of the Middle and Near East and the peoples of South Asia. And we understand these people's concern. It is fully justified, especially if we take into account the fact that the same road is being followed by the Beijing leadership, which is pursuing the courses of the great power hegemonistic policy. They, as it is said, have taken to treading on their heels, particularly recently, to catch up with Washington. The peoples of the world can well recognize those who are really devoted to the interest of peace and cooperation and fight for it and those who only sport peacemaker togas. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, its policy--the policy of struggle for peace and international cooperation, for the freedom and independence of the peoples--was and remains a consistent one. It has been bequeathed to us by V.I. Lenin. Our country will steadily follow this policy in future, actively promoting the preservation and strengthening of the cause of detente, putting an end to the arms race and achieving disarmament, the elimination of hotbeds of tension in various regions of the world, the eradication of the remnants of colonialism and pockets of racialism.

As everywhere in the world, we pursue the same policy towards the states of the Middle and Near East and South Asia. The Soviet people know what deserved authority the peace-loving policy of India, a great Asian power, has in the international arena. We are firmly convinced of the fact that there are possibilities for the further deepening of cooperation between our countries, whose positions in many respects are either close or coincide, with the aim of solving urgent international issues and exerting positive influence on the development of the political situation in the world.

The Soviet-Indian treaty of 1971 serves as a reliable foundation for our common efforts to this end. It serves well Soviet-Indian relations and the world as a whole.

Allow me in conclusion to express the confidence that the present meetings and negotiations will serve the cause of further development of fruitful cooperation and strengthening of friendship between our two countries, for the sake of the Soviet and Indian peoples, in the interests of peace all over the world.

May I propose a toast to the health of Mr Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the president of India; to the health of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the prime minister of India; to the health of Narasimha Rao, the minister of external affairs of India; to the great Indian people; to friendship and new successes in the developments of cooperation between our countries.

Rao's 12 Feb Banquet Speech

BK181627 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1506 GMT 18 Feb 80 BK

[Speech by Indian Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao at a dinner in honor of A.A. Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, in New Delhi on 12 February]

[Text] Proposing a toast, Narasimha Rao said: Your Excellency Foreign Minister, Madame Gromyko, excellencies and friends, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you, Foreign Minister, and the distinguished members of your delegation to our country. Your visit, coming soon after a new government's assuming office, is in keeping with the tradition of high-level exchanges between India and the USSR which has strengthened the close and cordial relations existing between our two countries.

You have already had one useful session of talks and a meeting with our prime minister and I look forward to continuing our discussions tomorrow.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in April 1947 our bilateral cooperation has progressed rapidly and in the interest of our two peoples on the basis of mutual trust and a mature understanding of each other's points of view. While discussing various issues, global or regional, we have been sustained by an unwavering commitment to work for world peace.

Over these years our two countries have developed strong cultural ties. The exchange of visits both by scholars and performing artistes from either country has substantially contributed to the enrichment of our multifaceted cooperation. India-Soviet cooperation in the economic, technical and scientific fields bears eloquent testimony to how the two countries, notwithstanding their different socioeconomic systems, may strengthen their bilateral relations to their mutual benefit on the basis of the Pancha Shila of peaceful coexistence. Such beneficial cooperation has reflected the common endeavor of our two peoples to build a better world. Both of us have striven to raise the standards of living of our people through economic development and have always recognised that such development can best take place in an international environment of peace. India has never tired of reaffirming its strong conviction, both bilaterally and in various international forums, that nations have no alternatives except to live in harmony, guided by the principles of peaceful coexistence.

Indeed, this belief has firm roots in our different historical experiences. India recalls with pride her long struggle against colonialism, racialism and apartheid which conspired and still do conspire to shackle the aspirations of a vast mass of people. The Soviet Union, too, must have similar memories of her valiant fight against fascism, which extracted such a massive sacrifice from her great people. We greatly appreciate the contribution made by the Soviet Union to initiate and develop the process of detente in Europe, for it is a process which has considerably eased the tensions which threaten the peace of that continent. We had looked at this development as the first positive step towards peace. We had hoped that this process would spread to other areas of the world. Of late, however, such a hopeful prospect seems to have clouded over by the shadows of growing suspicion. Our fervent hope is that the recent setbacks prove to be temporary and do not blight the prospects of international peace, bringing the world to the brink of another cold war. We know that the Soviet Union too must share this hope.

Recent developments in our region have caused us much concern. Their first effect has been to threaten the stability of the region and affect the prospects of international peace. Our conviction that each country must be free to develop according to its own genius and (?tradition) is central to any solution which we might consider. Such a solution alone will strengthen the forces of peace, contribute to stability of the region and encourage nations to work for constructive cooperation among themselves.

All countries of the region are members of the nonaligned movement and should be permitted to live in peace and amity without being dragged into a confrontation.

At this crucial hour we call for exercise of utmost restraint both by countries of the region and outside powers in the best interests of regional peace. We urge all countries concerned to refrain from any action contributing to a further escalation of tension in the region and to accept that problems between countries can and must be resolved through peaceful negotiations. We are convinced that interstate relations must be governed by the principles of peaceful coexistence, namely sovereignty, equality and independence, nonuse of force, inviolability of frontiers, respect for territorial integrity and noninterference in the internal affairs of each other. We, on our part, have always believed that this practice is in keeping with the spirit of nonalignment and is the surest way of achieving national self-reliance and fulfilment of the people's aspirations.

We in India stand committed to pursue the policy of normalized and strengthening relations with our neighbors. However, we must reiterate at the same time that any improvement of our relations with one country will not be at the cost of our established and time tested friendships with other countries. We reaffirm our readiness to (?seek) great participation in regional economic cooperation. We are conscious of the limitations of our resources, yet we are prepared to make a modest contribution as a beginning. We are confident that we shall have your support in this.

Eruption of local tension in one part of world or another often leads us to forget that today, more than ever before, there is an urgent need for resolving major issues of development which confront mankind. The vast majority of the world population still lives in hunger and want, poverty and illiteracy. Man can ill afford to expend his scarce resources on pulling the self-defeating and wasteful machine of war.

We are happy that Your Excellency's visit, the first of series of visits from Soviet leaders to India, comes at a time when we are celebrating the silver jubilee of our economic relations. In 10 days from today my colleague the cochairman of the India-Soviet joint commission will visit Delhi to participate in the joyous celebrations of India-Soviet economic cooperation which are being held throughout the country. We are sure that these visits will give us an opportunity to renew our (?pledge) to the noble cause of yet closer bilateral cooperation for the benefit of our peoples and enable us to continue the fruitful dialog on important issues which face the world today.

Friends, may I now request you to join me in raising a toast to His Excellency Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR; Madame Gromyko; and the distinguished members of his delegation; to the further strengthening of India-Soviet friendship, which has served the cause of world peace and will continue to do so in the years to come.

AFP ROUNDUP OF EDITORIALS ON OUTCOME OF GROMYKO VISIT

BK151457 Hong Kong AFP in English 0712 GMT 15 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 15 Feb (AFP)--"A Wide Gap", "A Futile Mission", "Defusing By Doing Nothing" are the titles of the editorials today in the Indian dailies on Gromyko's visit to India which concluded yesterday.

"The Soviet Union's and India's positions on Afghanistan remain as far apart at the end of Mr Gromyko's 3-day visit to New Delhi as they were before," writes THE TIMES OF INDIA. "This is obvious from the absence of any reference to the question of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country in the joint statement issued after Mr Gromyko's departure. That by itself would have been sufficient to indicate that the Soviet foreign minister has taken an extremely tough stand in his discussions with the Indian prime minister and minister for external affairs."

"While India will not join in an anti-Soviet campaign under Sino-U.S. auspices," adds THE TIMES OF INDIA, "it will keep up pressure on Moscow for withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan. But it must also begin to search for concrete proposals which can meet the legitimate security requirements of the countries concerned, the Soviet Union included. Neutralisation of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan under international auspices can be one such proposal."

THE STATESMAN's editorialist comments ironically the fact that India and Soviet Union agreed "to defuse" the situation. "The Indian official spokesman seems to have been entirely right in one respect," writes THE STATESMAN. "He said that (?means) (of defusion) need not necessarily be in the form of specific proposals." As much is obvious. One way of at least partly defusing almost any situation may be to do nothing whatever about it.

For the INDIAN EXPRESS, "the Soviet Union has not given a specific assurance of its intention to withdraw. Afghanistan is not mentioned at all in the joint statement issued after two days of talks. That tells the story best."

The NATIONAL HERALD (Mrs Gandhi's daily) says that "if the two countries do not share identical views on the Afghan crisis, it does not suggest that India-Soviet friendship is not intact." It adds that "diplomacy is a subtle art with which both the Soviet Union and India are well conversant."

DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST AT SOVIET, AMERICAN EMBASSIES

BK151417 Hong Kong AFP in English 1411 GMT 15 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 15 Feb (AFP)--About 200 Moslems today staged a protest demonstration before the Soviet Embassy here over the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. They burnt an effigy of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev during the protest and raised slogans like "Russia Hands Off Afghanistan."

The demonstration was organized by the All India Majlis Tameer-e Millat. There were no other untoward incidents.

A similar demonstration was held before the American Embassy by another group protesting against the proposed arms supply to Pakistan by the United States. The slogan-shouting protestors, belonging to the "Rashtriya Surakha Samiti" (National Security Association), appealed to the people of America to pressurise the Carter administration to change the policy.

JANATA WANTS INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE FOR SOVIET WITHDRAWAL

BK151558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Janata Party has urged the government to take effective diplomatic initiatives to mobilize international pressure on Moscow for withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the party said that it will be in India's interest that initiative remains in the hands of nonalined and Asian countries.

Observers on Afghan Border Proposed

BK181049 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Janata Party leader, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has suggested that observers from nonalined countries be posted along the Afghanistan border. Speaking to newsmen in Indore, he said this will help check supply of arms by foreign powers to Afghan rebels.

CPI LEADER DANGE HAILS AFGHAN REVOLUTION

BK181048 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Communist Party of India leader, Mr S.A. Dange, has hailed the new revolution in Afghanistan and urged the union government to help it. He was addressing a public meeting in Bombay.

RAO: INDIA TRYING TO DEFUSE TENSION IN AFGHANISTAN

BK181305 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Feb 80 BK

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao has said that India will continue to take initiatives to defuse the tension in Afghanistan. Talking to newsmen at (Tirupatti), he said the most important thing now is to de-escalate the tension which has been built up. India is viewing the problem as a danger of importation of cold war in the region, he added.

FOREIGN SECRETARY SATHE LEAVES FOR NEPAL

BK180604 Hong Kong AFP in English 0512 GMT 18 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Feb 18 (AFP)--India's top diplomat left here for Katmandu today on the latest leg of regional consultations aimed a defusing tension sparked by the Soviet moves in Afghanistan.

Foreign Secretary R.D. Sathe told an airport news conference that the earlier visits of Indian envoys to neighboring states had turned up a broad consensus on the need for a prompt Soviet withdrawal, but there were differences on how to achieve this.

"The goal is clear but the differences are on methodology," he said. "Right now the problem is the arms aid likely to be given to Pakistan in the wake of the situation in Afghanistan."

Special significance was being attached to Mr Sathe's possible meeting with King Birendra, who is about to visit New Delhi, Singapore, Rangoon, Dacca and Colombo.

ENVOY LEAVES FOR MIDDLE EAST TO DISCUSS AFGHANISTAN

BK151243 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Another senior Indian official has been sent out for consultations on regional developments following the happenings in Afghanistan and its neighborhood. The official, Mr Romesh Bhandari, a secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, left today on a 10-day tour of four West Asian countries. He will discuss these political developments with the governments in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran.

NEPAL

INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ARRIVES, HOLDS TALKS

BK180858 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The situation in Afghanistan and its neighborhood figured in the hour-long talks by Foreign Secretary R.D. Sathe with the Nepalese prime minister in Katmandu today. Sathe, who arrived in the Nepalese capital this morning, earlier called on Nepalese Foreign Minister K.B. Shahi.

Sathe told All India Radio correspondent that he apprised the Nepalese prime minister of India's viewpoint on the situation in the region. He conveyed to Mr Thapa the greetings of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi for the prosperity of Nepal. Sathe described his talks as cordial and friendly. He also said that he briefly touched on the bilateral relations. Detailed discussion will take place in the afternoon.

Earlier, before his departure from Delhi, Sathe said that a consensus is emerging among the countries of the region regarding the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. But he added that the countries differ in their approaches toward this.

PAKISTAN

AGHA SHAHI ON GROMYKO STATEMENTS IN DELHI

BK161740 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, in Islamabad today expressed deep regrets over the recent statements by the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Gromyko, in India. When his attention was drawn to the criticism of Pakistan by Mr Gromyko during his recent visit to India, Mr Agha Shahi expressed regrets that the Soviet foreign minister should have allowed himself while still in India to accuse Pakistan of letting itself be turned into a seat of tension and a base for further upholding aggression against Afghanistan. These statements have no basis. In fact, they are an attempt to divert world attention from the real issue.

The real issue is the Soviet armed intervention in Afghanistan and universal demand for the withdrawal of Soviet military forces from that country. This call, as the world is aware, was voiced in the recent UN General Assembly resolution and by the Islamic community of nations which endorsed it unanimously and in the most emphatic terms.

The adviser expressed his deep disappointment that the friendly persuasions during the Soviet foreign minister's talks with the Indian prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, had not elicited a Soviet commitment to the earlier withdrawal of its military forces from Afghanistan, which would have brought about a deescalation of tension in the region. He said that it was an entirely mistaken view that Pakistan was alienated from its friends. Islamic nations had declared their complete solidarity with Pakistan and Iran against any threat to their security and well being arising from the situation in Afghanistan.

With neighboring Afghanistan, the adviser said Pakistan was ready to enter into a dialog once the foreign occupation forces were withdrawn so as to restore not only good neighborly but brotherly relations in keeping with the brotherly ties of common faith and culture of the countries and the rights of their people to political independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As a result of the repressive measures and the military occupation launched by the Taraki and Amin regimes, Pakistan is faced with the massive problem of refugees, whose number is now over half a million. Neither successive Afghan governments nor the present Soviet authorities in Afghanistan have been able to prevent the exodus of refugees. For the same reason, Pakistan is unable to prevent their influx. Like any other self-respecting state and in pursuance of its Islamic vocation, Pakistan has been extending humanitarian assistance to these uprooted people. Their camps are open for inspection by any impartial authority and indeed have been visited by representatives of various states and international organizations who are contributing toward their upkeep.

Pakistan has exerted every effort to deny the use of its territory as a base for insurgency in Afghanistan. If there is any tension in the region, Pakistan should not be blamed for it. On the contrary, Pakistan is a victim of circumstances which are beyond its control.

Pakistan has enjoyed good relations with the Soviet Union and has been engaged in the process of developing closer and more cooperative relationship with it. The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan will facilitate that process.

During the recently held Islamic conference of foreign ministers, Pakistan demonstrated its adherence to the principles of Islamic solidarity and nonalinement in supporting resolutions both against the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan and the United States pressure on Iran and its policies militating against the just aspirations of the Palestinian people.

The adviser affirmed that the promotion of a world consensus for an internationally recognized neutral status for Afghanistan on the model of the Austrian state treaty will best serve the interest of peace and stability in the region and the world.

KARACHI CLARIFIES STATEMENT BY INDIAN JOURNALIST

BK161802 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Feb 80 BK

[Text] In Islamabad, the position has been clarified with regard to the interview broadcast by BBC with an Indian journalist, Mr Kuldip Nayer, after his visit to Pakistan and Afghanistan and his meetings with the president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and the Afghan president, Mr Babrak Karmal.

Talking about his meeting with the Pakistan president, the BBC quoted the Indian journalist as saying that Mr Amin was really contemplating dissociating himself from Moscow and he wanted to know from the president that Mr Amin would be able to receive foreign aid not only from Pakistan but also from the Western powers, particularly the United States. While giving his impressions, the Indian journalist was referring to the contacts which the former Afghan president had established with the Pakistan president in December last.

A Pakistan press report based on the BBC broadcast has gone further and attributed the views of the Indian journalist to the president himself. Both versions are wide of the mark and highly misleading. By no stretch of the imagination did the president's remarks lead to the interpretations based on them. The facts are: Mr Kuldip Nayer had inquired whether Hafizollah Amin ever asked him for help, and the president replied no. He added that Mr Amin had sent him a polite message to visit Afghanistan and how could that be termed as asking for help.

Mr Nayer asked when this happened, and the president replied that it was in the middle of December. The president said further that he could not go and Mr Agha Shahi was scheduled to visit Kabul on 27 December.

The president recalled that he had met Mr Hafizollah Amin and Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki during his visit to Kabul in 1978 and had met the latter again in Havana.

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE MAY SERVE ON COMMISSION INVESTIGATING SHAH

BK181118 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Reports from New York indicate the strong possibility of Sri Lanka serving on the five-member UN commission to investigate the alleged crimes of the deposed shah of Iran. A UN spokesman siad Secretary General Dr Waldheim is now waiting for formal approval of the appointment of the commission by Iran.

Earlier reports had said that the panel would consist of personalities from Algeria, Bangladesh, France, Syria and Venezuela. But informed sources in New York said yesterday that the Bangladesh nominee, former President Chowdhury, was unwell and that he would be replaced by Mr H.W. Jayewardene, Q.C. [Queen's Counsel] from Sri Lanka.

The commission will be part of the package deal to secure the release of American hostages now under 106 days of captivity in Iran.

COLOMBO RADIO REPORTS ON RESHUFFLE OF CABINET

BK151256 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Feb 80 BK

[Text] President Jayewardene yesterday effected a number of changes in the cabinet, including reallocation of some of the portfolios. The president, in addition to the Ministries of Defense and Plan Implementation, has taken charge of higher education, state plantation and Janata estates development.

The prime minister, Mr Premadasa, who retained his portfolio of local government, housing and construction, also becomes the minister of highways.

Mr Maj Montague Jayewickreme is minister of public administration and also minister of plantation industries.

Mr D.B. Wijetunga, in addition to being the minister of post and telecommunications, has been placed in charge of a new ministry, that of power and energy.

Mr K.W. Devanayaqam has been appointed as the minister of home affairs, Dr Nissanka Wijeyertne as minister of justice, and the minister of youth affairs and employment, Mr Ranil Wickremasinghe, also as minister of education.

Other portfolios remained unchanged. Also sworn in as a non-cabinet rank minister was Mr Dharmasena Attiygalle, as minister of indigenous medicine.

Deputies of the new ministries are: home affairs: Mr Percy Samaraweera; plantation industries: Mr (Eric Kalaweehara); power and energy: Mr M.A. Abdul Majeed; janata estate development: Mr (Harold Herat); state plantation: Mr V.L. Wijemanne; public administration: Mr Harendra Corea; highways: Mr. G.M. Premachandra; regional development: Mr (G.B. Poonchidileme); higher education: Mr (A.M.R.B. Attanayake); education: Mr (Viravani Samaraweera); and health: Mr Premaratne Gunasekera. In other ministries, the earlier deputy ministers will all continue to hold office.

With yesterday's changes there are now 35 ministries. There are also five ministers of non-cabinet rank.